

Bay Area Reporter

VOL. XXV No. 17 April 27, 1995

395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Will Alameda Vote To Lose \$6,000,000 in Federal Money?

by Mary Ann Swissler

A Town Hall meeting has been scheduled for noon on Friday, May 5 at the Alameda County board of supervisors' chambers to address plans to cut \$260,000 from the budget of the Office of AIDS Administration (OAA).

Although those cutbacks alone would have a significant negative impact on AIDS healthcare in the county, a far more devastating blow would be delivered from the loss of up to \$6 million in federal Ryan White matching funds as a direct result of the plan.

According to members of the AIDS Advisory Board (AAB), which convened an emergency meeting to discuss the most recent rounds of proposed cutbacks in the County Public Health Department, the \$260,000 budget reduction would bring the amount of money spent by the county under the Ryan White "maintenance of effort" clause, the minimum local outlay required to qualify for the program that serves areas hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic.

OAA Director Eugene Richards said he can only guess at this point how his office would survive, but estimated five full-time staff members would be let go immediately. "This would eliminate staff for Ryan White [funded] support and contract monitoring," Richards told the *Bay Area Reporter*. A reduction in funding to community-based organizations is also likely.

The enormity of the proposed cuts came as a surprise, since the last announced round of cuts in the County Public Health Department was estimated to be just \$50,000 at the March AAB meeting.

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First Gay Case in Years Argued Before Supreme Court

by Bob Roehr

Two years to the day that a million lesbians and gays marched down the streets of Washington, DC, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on another gay march, this one in Boston.

The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Irish Group of Boston (GLIB) had organized to celebrate their heritage and participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade through the streets of South Boston. The South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, the private group organizing the activity, denied their application.

GLIB charged that the council discriminated against them

simply because they were gay, which is illegal under Massachusetts law. They sued and won at every level of the state court. On Tuesday, April 25 the parties were before the U.S. Supreme Court, where all but Justice Thomas joined in vigorous questioning.

The council tried to frame the case as an issue of free speech. "The central issue is whether the government can mandate the content of a privately organized parade," said attorney Chester Darling. Their "clearly stated purpose" was one of "traditional religious and social values."

"Didn't the trial judge make a finding that this was not an idea-centered parade?" asked Chief Justice William Rehnquist, interrupting the attorney only a minute into his

Continued on page 21

Pelosi Holds AIDS Town Hall Meeting Saturday

by Dennis Conkin

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi will hold a Town Meeting on AIDS this Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Davies Medical Center Auditorium, located at Castro and Duboce Streets.

Pelosi will be joined by a panel of AIDS resource and advocacy representatives. A question and answer session will follow the brief presentations, according to Pelosi aide Steve Morin.

The Town Hall conference has been orga-

nized as a way of mobilizing reaction and response to plans by the 104th Congress to cut the federal AIDS budget by up to 20 percent, said Project Inform policy coordinator Ann Donnelly.

"It's an incredibly significant amount. It's definitely going to affect research," she said.

Donnelly told the *Bay Area Reporter* that current research into questions of the pathogenesis of HIV is vital for effective treatments, and what researchers need are increases in funding and not cuts.

"AIDS research hasn't received a budget increase since 1991, except for a single 1994

Continued on page 21



Nancy Pelosi

Leal Liaison to White House Meeting With Gay Officials

by Dennis Conkin

Lesbian and gay officials from around the United States will hold a historic meeting with Clinton administration officials at the White House on Tuesday, June 13.

The first-ever meeting between lesbian and gay officials and the White House will give community political leaders an opportunity to give the administration input and

discuss issues of common concern, said Supervisor Susan Leal, who is the liaison for the meeting.

Other elected officials attending the meeting will be U.S. Congressmen Gerry Studds and Barney Frank, California State Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl, and San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano.

The unprecedented meeting was proposed before last November's elections but had been stalled until this week's announcement — and it remains unclear whether President

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Supervisor Susan Leal



Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

A Royal Adieu

Hundreds turned out for the April 22 high Imperial Court state funeral and memorial service for Empress XX de San Francisco Sissy Spacek (aka Steven Craig Lindsay) at the Trinity Episcopal Church at Gough and Bush. The popular empress and community activist died April 8 of AIDS at age 39.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Rick Gerhardt

Award winners: Augie Robles and Valentin Aguirre, co-directors of *Viva 16*.

The Eagles Are Landing At May 4 AGUILAS Banquet

by Kent Brandley

Asociacion Gay/Lesbian Unida Impactando Latinos/as/Superarse (AGUILAS, the Spanish word for "Eagles") has announced Supervisor Susan Leal will be keynote speaker at its second annual awards banquet next Thursday, May 4.

"Embracing Hidden Voices" will be the theme of this year's banquet at Union Square Holiday Inn, located at 480 Sutter, according to AGUILAS spokesperson Louis Ornelas.

"The banquet honors individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the gay and lesbian Latin community," Ornelas said.

This year's award winners are:

- Raul Salazar, former AGUILAS secretary;
- Dr. Eduardo Morales, director of El Ambiente, a program designed to begin bringing AIDS research into the Latin gay community;
- Alicia Lara, program director at the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network;
- Valentin Aguirre and Augie Robles, co-directors of the video *Viva 16*, which looks at las vidas de young gay Latinas on 16th Street; and

• Projecto Contra SIDA Por Vida, an AIDS Service Agency.

The 1994 awards ceremony at the California Culinary Academy drew a crowd of about 100, and honored Juan Alberto Tam and Sam Rodriguez, first co-chairs of AGUILAS; Dr. Rafael Diaz, a trailblazing researcher on issues affecting Latin gay and bisexual men; Cherrie Moraga, essayist, poet, and playwright; and Chris Sandoval, a pioneer activist in the AIDS prevention movement of the Latino community. The event last year was also used to launch the successful El Ambiente project.

Last year Mayor Frank Jordan proclaimed the day of the banquet "AGUILAS Day," and a similar declaration can be expected this year, according to Robert Oakes, lesbian/gay/bi liaison in the mayor's office.

The banquet begins at 7 p.m. and is preceded by a 6 p.m. cocktail hour. Tickets are \$50 for AGUILAS members and \$60 for non-members. Tables of ten can be reserved for \$55 per person. ▼

Call (415) 648-3702 for further bilingual information.

Health Center #1 Says "Just Name the Place!"

by Dennis Conkin

District Health Center #1 in the Castro wants the help of Bay Area Reporter readers and all San Francisco residents in suggesting a new name for the primary and preventive health care center, located at 3850 17th Street.

Built in 1965 as the first of five city-run health care centers funded by the federal government by the Hill-Burton Act, the Health Center feels that consumers and residents do not fully identify with health centers designated by numbers, said director Jan Murphy.

"We really need to have a name that the community owns a little more," Murphy told the Bay Area Reporter.

Some names proposed for site include "Hope Center" and "Castro/Mission Health Center." Others have suggested naming the center after names of gay men who have been leaders in the fight against AIDS, such as late Health Commissioners Pierre Ludington and Jim Foster.

Entries will be collected between May 1 and May 31; all entries become the property of the San Francisco Health Department and will not be returned. Names can consist of any word or name of a place, person, idea, or concept. Participants may suggest two names, and entries may be in English and Spanish but are limited to six words maximum.

An advisory committee will review the suggestions and select one to present to the Health Commission, which will either approve or disapprove the proposed name.

If the proposed name change is approved, the Health Commission will forward the proposal to the board of supervisors, which will author a resolution to change the name of a public building, Murphy said.

District Health Center #1 provides a variety of health services including primary care, primary HIV care, family planning, mental health services,

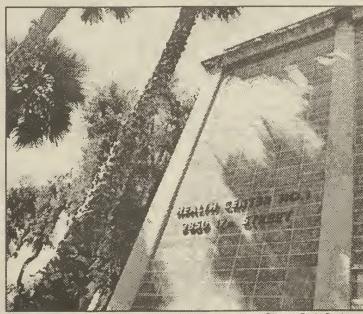


Photo: Rick Gerhardt

The Castro Palms? The Health Center #1 site on 17th Street.

immunizations, HIV testing, health education, and public health nursing services. It inaugurated a men's clinic in the 1970s in response to the influx of gay men moving to the city and the Castro neighborhood, to test for and treat sexually transmitted diseases, and was later the first anonymous HIV testing site in the city.

The center has a current patient caseload of an estimated 800 people with AIDS, Murphy said.

"Most are gay men, but there are some women and two children. Last year we lost 62 patients to AIDS and we see six or seven new HIV patients a week," Murphy said. ▼

Suggestion forms are available in the lobby of District Health Center #1, and can be phoned in to the Name Change Suggestion Line at (415) 487-7558 or mailed to: The Name Change Committee at District Health Center #1, 3850 17th Street, San Francisco CA 94114.

It's Jordan vs. AAC in CAEAR Coalition Controversy

by Dennis Conkin

Mayor Frank Jordan last week blasted criticism of the national Cities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition, of which San Francisco is a member, raised by AIDS Action Council executive director Mark Barnes.

Barnes authored an April 21 commentary in the *Washington Blade* criticizing the conduct of the CAEAR Coalition and its opposition to shifts in Ryan White funding.

Barnes denounced "the scorched earth lobbying tactics" of the coalition, which opposes any structural changes to the Ryan White Care Act that would redistribute funding from some cities initially devastated by AIDS to areas "now experiencing the full force of the epidemic."

Barnes supports SB 641, a reauthorization measure by Senators Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kansas) and Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), which is a single appropriations approach opposed by the CAEAR

Coalition. Under the measure, each state and city would receive at least 92.5 percent of its current funding level. San Francisco receives an estimated \$40 million dollars in federal AIDS funding a year.

The CAEAR Coalition calls for a five percent cap on losses, phased in over time, and enhancement of some programs funded by the bill; AIDS Action Council supports cuts of no less than five percent but no more than ten percent phased in over time.

In his editorial, Barnes said the effectiveness of the CAEAR Coalition was compromised and its lobbying strategies have "poisoned the well" in Congress on issues that are just as important as Ryan White, such as housing, AIDS prevention, research, and Medicaid reforms.

"It was with great displeasure that I read your recent Viewpoint column in the *Washington Blade*," Jordan responded in a letter the next day.

"Given that San Francisco continues to be so dispropor-

tionately impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and given that our per capita caseload still exceeds that of other major metropolitan areas in the United States, we are relying on funding from the

Ryan White Care Act to maintain our fragile HIV/AIDS continuum of care for low-income and uninsured San Franciscans living with HIV disease," he wrote.

Jordan's position was supported by CAEAR Council chair Ernest Hopkins, who said shifting the funding formula from urban to rural areas and pooling state and local funding streams would leave urban areas vulnerable to further funding

shifts, with a damaging effect on the urban poor and minorities.

The Kennedy-Kassebaum measure is currently stalled in the Senate because of opposition from a variety of senators, including Bob Graham of Florida, who have expressed concern about the negative impact of the single appropriations bill on cities in their states.

Opponents of the single appropriation measure say that the elimination of separate funding streams restricts the ability to target funds where they are most needed. Barnes said that SB 641 will not become a state block grant program, but will combine appropriations for Title

1 cities and Title 11 states and that after the first year, the shares would be determined by a method to be worked out by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"Some will get a little more and some will get a little less but we will keep the crucial program," Barnes wrote in his editorial.

The CAEAR Coalition is also supported by Mobilization Against AIDS, The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, The National Association of People with AIDS, Housing Works and the National Ryan White Title III (B) Coalition.

Jordan called the work of the CAEAR council "indispensable." ▀



Mayor Frank Jordan
Ryan White
Care Act

Maitri, Larkin, Glide Split \$3.6M in HOPWA Funds

by Dennis Conkin

A Castro area hospice is one of three local projects approved for funding on Tuesday, April 18 by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency.

Almost \$3.6 million in funds from the \$10 million 1994 Housing Opportunities For People With AIDS (HOPWA) budget was allocated to the projects.

An additional \$2 million in rental assistance subsidies for approximately 300 people with HIV/AIDS has also been allocated by the commission.

Maitri AIDS Hospice, an eight-bed hospice on Hartford Street in the Castro District, will receive \$1.2 million in funds for the acquisition and rehabilitation of the top floor of 401 Duboce Street, at the corner of Church.

The lower floor of the site is currently occupied by the Project Open Hand Food Bank, which plans to relocate to larger — and as yet unsecured — quarters.

"We expect to begin rehab this summer and have it ready to occupy by late summer next year," Maitri Executive Director George Hurd said.

The location will be made into a wheelchair-accessible 15-bed hospice, according to Hurd. The facility will include rooftop access for residents and clients.

Maitri was founded in 1987 by the late Soto Zen Buddhist priest, Issan Dorsey-roshi, an openly gay Buddhist leader who died in 1990 of AIDS-related lymphoma.

Maitri hospice works in partnership with Visiting Nurses and Hospice to provide 24-hour skilled nursing and palliative care for people with AIDS who are in the final stages of the illness.

Since its inception, Maitri (which means 'compassionate friendship') has provided a

home and care to more than 170 people with AIDS.

The hospice provides more than one-third of the 21 available AIDS hospice beds in San Francisco, and has a waiting list that often exceeds 40 patients.

Larkin and Glide

Glide Memorial Methodist Church and Larkin Street Services also received AIDS housing funds at the meeting.

Larkin Street Services was awarded \$1.29 million to acquire and rehabilitate a building at 129 Hyde in the Tenderloin, as a 12-bed home for runaway youth and homeless young adults with late stage AIDS.

Glide Memorial United

Methodist Church also received approval for \$1.1 million in AIDS Housing funds to be used in the construction of a \$9 million 100-bed housing project for low-income families and individuals. The nine-story building will be located next to the world-famous church at 333 Taylor Street.

A quarter of the beds will be reserved for people with disabilities HIV and AIDS, according to Redevelopment Agency staffer Amy Neches.

The facility will be one of the largest low-income housing facilities in the city, and people with HIV and AIDS will be integrated with the rest of the residential population at the site,

Continued on page 9

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Rick Gerharter

Speak now or forever hold your peace

Suggestions from the audience were fast and furious during the April 19 community forum about the Halloween celebration on Castro Street held at the Metropolitan Community Church.

Busy Schedule for Deaf Lesbian/Gay Awareness Week

Compiled by Kent Brandley

Deaf Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week – April 30 to May 6 – promises to be a very busy seven days throughout the Bay Area, crammed with entertaining and informative events.

Events sponsored by the Deaf Gay and Lesbian Center, the Deaf AIDS Center, Northern California Leather Association of the Deaf, the Rainbow Deaf Society, and the San Jose Lambda Society of the Deaf will kick off this Sunday evening.

Organizers hope the week's celebration helps to bridge the communication gap between the gay, straight, hearing and deaf communities.

Here is a summary of the week's major events:

• Sunday, April 30, 8 p.m. Deaf Lesbian and Gay Awareness Night at JR's Nightclub. JR's is located at 5678 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. The nightclub event will feature performances by "Half-N-Half" and musically inspired American Sign Language storytelling. Interpreters will be present all evening.

• Monday, May 1, 7 p.m. Deaf Lesbigay de' Club Show at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, located at 175 Stockton Avenue in San Jose. The perfor-

mance by San Jose Lambda Society of the Deaf is based on the culture of deaf lesbians and gays. Performance will be in sign language, with voice interpretation for the hearing audience.

• Tuesday, May 2, 6 p.m. The first-ever deaf gay & lesbian tour of the Castro District, sponsored by Rainbow Deaf Society. Meet in front of Deaf Gay & Lesbian Center at MCC, located at 150 Eureka Street, in the city.

• Wednesday, May 3, 7 p.m. Deaf Leather Workshop sponsored by Northern California Leather Association of the Deaf at the center, Suite 108, 150 Eureka Street. For more info call the hotline at (415) 255-9944 TTY.

• Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m. "I Remember," a Deaf AIDS Memorial sponsored by the Deaf AIDS Center, at Holy Innocents Church Social Hall, located at 455 Fair Oaks Street (between 25th and 26th Streets and Dolores and Guerrero Streets).

• Friday, May 5, 1 p.m. *Gay and Deaf: Cross-Cultural Aspects*, a workshop led by Hank Stack of the national Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf.

The workshop will focus on major issues of interaction between deaf gay people and the hearing culture, the hearing gay subculture, and the mainstream deaf culture. A workshop donation of \$10 is suggested, and registration is required. To register, call Deaf Gay & Lesbian Center at (415) 255-0700 TTY. (Non-TTY callers need to use California Relay at 1-800-735-2922.)

Then, at 7 p.m.: Deaf Lesbigay Pride Party, at 676 Duncan (at the end of Castro Street) in the city. Admission is \$5, which includes non-alcoholic refreshments and finger foods. New signers welcome.

• Saturday, May 6, 6 p.m.: The second Annual Deaf Lesbian and Gay Community Awards Night, with the theme, "Our Pride, Our Life, Our Culture." Hank Stack will be the keynote speaker, and The Deaf AIDS Center, the Deaf Gay and Lesbian Center, Northern California Leather Association of the Deaf, Rainbow Deaf Society and San Jose Lambda Society of the Deaf will present awards. Tickets are \$25 at the door, in limited number. At the Deaf Community Center, 1150 San Leandro Boulevard, in San Leandro. For more information, call DGLC at (415) 255-0700 TTY. ▼

First-Ever Conference on Dentistry For HIV-Positive Patients Planned

by Mary Ann Swissler

The first national conference on the clinical management of oral disease in HIV-infected patients will be held in Chicago from June 16-18. "Responding to the Challenge: American Conference on the Dental Management of HIV Disease" will be sponsored by the American Dental Association and San Francisco's University of the Pacific School of Dentistry.

Conference Chair Gene Gowday, DDS, explained that the three days of seminars have a two-fold purpose. First, dentists and other concerned healthcare providers will receive information on the management of HIV-related oral disease. And second, plenary sessions will address the role of an HIV-positive patient's dental treatment in his or her overall medical management.

Gowday said the conference will address occupational issues of dentists treating HIV-positive patients, give state-of-the-art information on clinical dental therapy, assess treatment of various oral manifestations of HIV, and discuss implications of the different drugs currently available.

The three-day conference will be held at the Fairmont Hotel in Chicago and will coincide with the Windy City's dynamic Gay Pride Parade. ▼

For more information call (415) 929-6448.

Foundations Will Be Moving And Shaking in SF Next Week

Gay Groups Get the Once-Over from Grant Providers

by Dennis Conkin

Grant makers and charitable foundation executives from around the nation will have the opportunity to tour four San Francisco lesbian and gay service agencies during the 46th Annual Conference of the Council of Foundations next week.

The conference will be held from May 1-3 at the San Francisco Marriott Hotel.

Foundation officials will tour Lyon Martin's Women Health Services, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, Operation Concern, and Frameline, the lesbian and gay media arts organization that sponsors the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, according to Horizons Foundation Executive Director Doug Braley.

"Foundations and the organizations they fund are often set far apart from each other, and offsite visits are a really great opportunity to make an agency and the people it serves real," Braley told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Such visits allow foundation grantmakers and executives to see first hand what lesbian and gay community needs are.

The theme of this year's conference is "Evolving Visions of Philanthropy and the Public Good," and will highlight some of San Francisco's most promising social programs, including those for lesbians, gays, and bisexuals.

Braley is on the steering committee of the Working Group of Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues, an affinity group of the Council on Foundations that organized the tour.

The Working Group is also sponsoring a conference session entitled "Reaching Out: Philanthropy's Recognition of and Response to Lesbian and Gay Issues," which will take place on Wednesday, May 3, at 10:30 a.m.

The session will focus on issues confronting lesbian and gay men, including civil rights and escalating homophobia.

Presenters include Debra Chasnow, director of Women's Educational Media; Scot Nakagawa of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force; and Lynette Campbell of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan.

"Lesbian and gay concerns represent the full spectrum of issues facing other disenfranchised groups in the United States," said Working Group spokeswoman Nancy Cunningham.

"However, many individuals and institutions do not know or are misinformed about the needs of lesbian and gay men. Education is the key to combating homophobia, and philanthropy can take the lead in helping to correct this social injustice."

The lesbian and gay community also needs to take a proactive role with community insti-

tutions — from regular financial support of agencies to providing institutional leadership through service on boards of directors and advisory groups, Braley said.

And non-profit agencies must be accountable to the communities they serve, he said.

The Council on Foundations is a nonprofit membership association of grantmaking foundations and corporations. Members of CoF hold more than \$100 billion in assets, and granted more than \$5.9 billion for programs in educational, health, human services arts and culture and other fields last year.

Major topics of discussion at this year's conference will include the role of foundations in affecting public policy, sessions on immigration policy, the

future of philanthropy and the arts, and African-American and Asian Pacific philanthropic issues.

The Working Group will also co-sponsor a panel with other CoF affinity groups about achieving and promoting staff diversity. Representatives from private and public philanthropic foundations will gather on Tuesday, May 2 at 5:45 to discuss a variety of workplace issues. A reception will follow the discussion. ▼

For more information about programs or the conference contact The Council on Foundations at (202) 446-6512. For information about the Working Group or about Horizons Foundation contact Braley at (415) 298-2333.

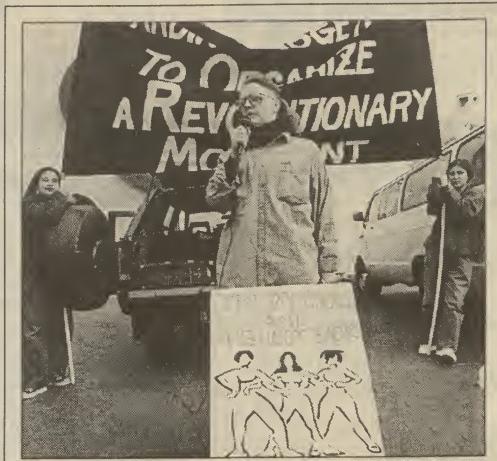


Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

Revolutionary

STORM (Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement) held a rally at the SF Department of Social Services April 21 to expose the link between welfare and food program cuts to shrinking access to safe birth control and abortion services, and violence against women. Community activists railed against the Republicans' "Contract With America" and what they see as a war against the poor.

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**OPEN FORUM**

Vol. XXV No. 17 • April 27, 1995

Next Issue Out: May 4

Next Deadline: April 28

CARTOON**EDITORIAL****Fundamental(ist) Problems in Oklahoma**

Like all other Americans, we're sorting through some of the Oklahoma City rubble this week.

It was interesting to watch as newscasters described one bomb blast as a different explosion – of xenophobia and racism – spread like a fireball from one end of the country to the other. Early reports, as we all remember, suggested two “Arab-looking” men might have perpetrated the crime, raising a great hue and cry for tighter borders and more scrutiny of anyone who might be an Islamic fundamentalist within these shores. When suspicion shifted to white American men with strong right wing beliefs – fundamentalists, yes; *Islamic* fundamentalists, no – the discussion landed into embarrassed silence. Too bad.

As gay bashing victims, women seeking abortions, and “Arab-looking” and other people of color know, domestic terrorism has been practiced in this country for some time. The news media only started using the term last week. And in America, as in Ireland and Japan and Iran and Iraq and elsewhere, religious intolerance is the single greatest threat to living together in peace.

When the truth was revealed, that the men were not Arab, the media was so embarrassed they retreated and declined to discuss the irony that the immediate reaction to the bombing – xenophobia and other right wing thinking – was what caused it in the first place; the same people who now heckle the suspects in their brief appearances would probably have aligned themselves with the strongest white separatist comments they might have made when reporters were still focusing on the Arab-looking guys.

Did the media talk about the ways the increasingly violent right wing rhetoric spilling across the airwaves and the halls of the nation’s capital leads to increasingly violent acts – but Clinton, to no small amount of surprise, did. Of course, that enraged Republicans who do not want to acknowledge how much of its strongest voting base is comprised of people whose beliefs are not too unlike the bombers’.

GOP leaders and right wing hatemongers have struck back, accusing the president of trying to make political hay out of dead babies. They’ll do everything they can to avoid a national discussion of the real and terrible consequences of bigotry.

We hope Clinton will stick to his principles on this one, at least, and that he will insist on more dialogue for the sake of the country. It won’t bring back the Oklahoma victims, but it might prevent a future tragedy.

New calls to limit the sales of chemical

fertilizers that corresponded with the Earth Day celebration had nothing to do with health and ecology – certainly not when that would mean placing them above profits; they were, of course, responses to the Oklahoma City bombing. We wonder how that will play out with National Rifle Association wackos and other arms control opponents: will they start affixing stickers to their trucks that read *Fertilizer Doesn’t Kill People; People with Fertilizer Kill People?*

We will all have to decide as a people if we want to have the kind of nation where people must register their farm supplies (because they can kill and that’s wrong) but not guns (because they can kill, and that’s a right). The NRA, of course, will say whatever is necessary to protect militia members – that is its job – and probably join in with others who say it would be better to purge “dangerous information” from the Internet and public libraries.

We, of course, would disagree. *Knowledge doesn’t kill people...*

But you can’t convince NRA members. They’re all too full of fertilizer, and not the chemical variety.

Another interesting thing to come out of the Oklahoma City disaster was the post-bombing footage of babies of many races – some of them even, presumably, Arab-looking – held by people of many races and political philosophies and perhaps even sexual orientations. It really was like a war zone of sorts, with people banding together for protection, and not at all like the war machine in this country, which wastes its money booting lesbian and gay servicemen instead of learning how to live beside them in peace.

A couple of times the pictures of those interracial impromptu interim “families” moved us almost to tears – no less so because we suspect in 20 years the divisions that now exist in America will still exist, leaving many of the babies in a de facto war against the people who held and guarded them. We hope whatever caused those adults to protect other peoples’ babies will last even after those children have grown; that the kids will grow up to provide a better world for their kids than we are giving them; and that everyone who lived through the ordeal will hang on to its few positive aspects as they heal from its negative ones.

Finally, speaking of healing, *B.A.R.* publisher Bob Ross would like to thank the many people who contacted him about his health in recent weeks. He is completely fixed – no, the problem is completely fixed – and already has received many more flowers than any one man needs. ▼

GUEST OPINION**In Praise of Chris Burns and His Legacy**

In memory and with great respect, I remember proudly one of the warmest people anyone could know – Mr. Chris Burns. Not only did I know him, but I was given the honor of his friendship that spanned longer than a decade. I am Cory Monroe, his friend.

Not long ago, Chris left his home in San Francisco and relocated to the San Diego area to draw upon his family’s love and support. For many years Chris battled HIV, but it was cancer that proved to be overwhelming, and on February 26, 1995, his suffering ceased. The void will remain, for his shoes can never be filled.

It is my sincere effort in this writing, that Chris Burns be remembered not only as a porn performer; but proudly as a porn person. There is no way a person can accurately say who we are, or how we are as people, based on the fact that someone made films. This is just one facet of our persona, and it is when all the facets are combined – only then do you get the entire picture of who we are.

To discredit someone on the basis of porn alone is simply narrow-minded and judgmental. And until you, yourself, are perfect, you have no right to judge others. Save that job for the one person who is perfect, the man all of us must answer to when our own time is up.

One of the outstanding facets that I admired most in Chris was his genuine concern of others – and the gay community particularly. During a time when gay bashing was prevalent, Chris developed a self-defense video utilizing martial arts, an area Chris excelled in. This was done to help people regain control of their lives, rather than being left a victim. He really cared about the quality of their lives, and got off his butt to offer a solution to the problem.

In addition to that, a little known fact about Chris was that he spent time working within the medical field. That type of job requires a special type of person: someone who is strong, sensitive, and who can put other people’s needs ahead of their own. It is a very demanding and unglamorous job – one that is not for just anyone.

Both issues I bring forth demonstrate that Chris often thought of others before himself – a trait more people within this state should try to appropriate.

In dealing with Chris you always knew where you stood: he was direct and to the point. Nothing was “sugar-coated” or done with ulterior motives. His honesty made it apparent he was in a select group, for he always told it like it was.

The most brilliant and insightful quote Chris ever said to me, which helped me through a very ugly period in my life, I will leave as a final thought; as it may help you one day. “*It is what it is – for the time that it is.*” ▼

- Cory Monroe



LETTERS

It's Marcus's world, we only live in it

I was somewhat stunned to read this week's issue of *B.A.R.* (April 6) and not see a word about an event I witnessed in Seattle last weekend (April 1) when I was in that city on business and noted that the Mr. Washington State Leather contest was taking place with our own Mr. Marcus on the judging panel.

I stayed a day longer so I could attend the contest, which was very well done, exciting, and a great event in my opinion. Of course, I was proud to see local people there, i.e., Int'l. Mr. Leather '92 Lenny Broberg doing a great MCing job; the current Int'l. Mr. Leather, Jeff Tucker of San Jose, on the judging panel; and of course, Mr. Marcus.

During the proceedings of the contest, I witnessed a poignant and endearing occurrence when, during the ceremonies, Mr. Marcus was given an Emerald Award, Seattle's recognition of persons who excel in community-based endeavors for the rest of the community.

Mr. Marcus's award was the annual National Award — for someone who does not live in Seattle, but who furthers the causes of the leather community not only in Seattle but around the country.

The presentation was done by Lenny Broberg in a very eloquent manner which was not read from any paper or teleprompter; by the time the first few sentences were uttered, I knew who the recipient would be. Mr. Marcus, who is a wizard on stage on most occasions, was completely flabbergasted, and the entire audience rose to their feet to applaud the award. After a few gasps of surprise, Marcus launched into a brief but illuminating history of his involvement in the leather community. He praised his own beloved San Francisco and the leather community here as well as Seattle's. It was a moment of pride that I have (for not only our city), but the fact that we are so lucky to have Marcus living here, doing his great job for so many years and the realization that we have a real jewel in our midst.

Jaded San Franciscans are used to having only the "best" in almost every area, and we rarely give recognition and honor where due. I left the venue with a swelling pride in my heart and Marcus's eloquence under real or imagined stress. Well-deserved; eloquent presentation, yet only Marcus's difficulty getting the beautiful statuette through the metal detectors at the Seattle airport. Excuse me, is someone unclear on the concept of what our community leaders do? Or are lauded by other cities for their contributions?

Jeff Hendrickson
Leatherman without a title

[The editor responds: Mr. Marcus, as everyone knows, is extremely shy, self-effacing, and loathe to have his horn blown too publicly.]

Leather notes from all over

Dear Judges, Vendors, Supporters, & Friends:
We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your assistance, support, camaraderie, and compassion during the Ms. New Mexico Leather title competition.

This being the first Ms. NML contest, we appreciated having such illustrious judges to help "pop our cherries" — we certainly hope it was as good for you as it was for us! A special thanks to Mr. Marcus for the wonderful write-up in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Many thanks also to the vendors for your continuing support for this and future leather events. Your patronage helps to bring us all together, and to bridge the gaps that sometimes exist within the leather community. Hopefully you did a fair amount of business while you were here, too.

Most of all, gracious "we are not worthy" thanks to Sandia Leather for making the event possible. Without their support, friendship, and hard work, there would be no Ms. New Mexico Leather 1995. We know you're exhausted, but that only comes with a job well done.

It was our pleasure to help and participate in this event, and all are welcome to contact us anytime — but if we don't see you sooner, then perhaps we'll see you at IML in May, or IMSL in July, but definitely at the second Ms. New Mexico Leather competition in '96.

Our love for leather is only exceeded by our love for the leather community. Take care and be well until we meet again.

Lady Willow
Ms. NM Leather 1995

Leslie Anderson
Ms. NML 1st Runner-Up

Diva Marie
Ms. NML 2nd Runner-Up
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Motherlode facts

As a transgendered woman who lives in the Tenderloin, the relocation of the Motherlode bar is important to me and my community. It is the only bar we can really call our own, yet the current location is just too small for us. While I generally appreciate the even-handed nature of your article concerning Mayor Jordan's veto of the Board of Supervisors measure allowing the Motherlode bar to relocate, I object to the wording that seems to imply that all of the neighbors object to the move. Fact: the Alcoholic Beverage Control commission sent out over a thousand letters to residents in that area regarding the application for the license transfer, and only 20 protests were received. The Motherlode has three times that many letters in support of the move. Fact: Save Our Streets, the conservative neighborhood group that put the majority of the pressure on Jordan, is by no means representative of all of the neighbors. They are, however, a very vocal group who has enjoyed getting its way with the mayor's office. Fact: for years the Motherlode has instituted security measures that have actually brought down crime statistics in its area, and there has never been a prostitution arrest in the Motherlode despite Mayor Jordan's claim in his veto message that such arrests have been made.

The real issue here is discrimination. The people opposed to this move are hiding their bias against transgendered people with a rationalization that they are *really* concerned about crime. Well, if they are *REALLY* concerned with crime, why don't they come down to my block and get rid of the crack dealers? Answer: crack dealers shoot back, transgenders don't.

Christine Beatty
San Francisco

Silver standard

[The following letter was sent to B.A.R. writer Bobby Silver:]

Dear Bobby: your April 6 *B.A.R.* article on the Perils of Prunedom (i.e., aging) was a truly positive, uplifting, insightful analysis of growing old in our culture. It provided real hope for us all. Your adoring fans kiss your feet for sharing your pearls of wisdom; your very name itself (so very cute). Bobby, suggests knowledge and wisdom beyond your years. My only problem now is that I've developed agoraphobia as a result of all your Helpful Tips. I'm terrified of leaving the house, petrified that, unbeknownst to me, I might walk past you in the street and that *I might not quite measure up to your standards*. I live with this constant fear. And there's not only you, but all those others out there. How can I please them and you and myself, too. Your article has opened whole new worlds for me of self-doubt, self-recrimination and I thank you for it. Your wisdom has shattered my whole life because I now know what is really important — pleasing you. Yet now I really, truly hate the worm that I am for being unequal to this exalted goal. I'm ruined. Nevertheless, I congratulate you and the *B.A.R.* for new standards of scholarship set by this enlightening article which has changed my whole outlook. I wonder if news publications can be sued for destroying one's self-image and terrifying one from leaving home.

Robert James Carron
San Francisco

Queers and mental health professionals

Your article "Wrongful Classification of Queer Youth Questioned" (April 6) made several sweeping generalizations that misrepresent the attitudes and beliefs of many mental health professionals.

The article inappropriately suggests that all mental health professionals hold homophobic attitudes and participate in incompetent and unethical treatment of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth. Unfortunately, homophobic attitudes are held by some mental health professionals. However, many mental health professionals are well trained in the area of identity development in adolescence and very sensitive to the special needs of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths.

James D. Reid, Ph.D.
San Francisco

[The B.A.R. never intends to imply all people in any group are identical. We apologize if that is how it seemed to you.]

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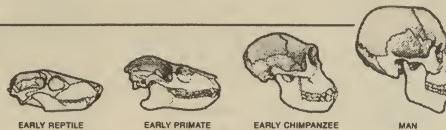
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LETTERS

Bigot hut

I was shocked to see Rush Limbaugh last week on a television commercial in Los Angeles promoting items for the Pizza Hut chain. What was Pizza Hut thinking? I do not patronize any establishment that employs self-righteous, bigoted, arrogant, right-wing, homophobic spokesmen, and urge you to do the same. Can you say "Boycott"?

Ronald P. Podoske
San Francisco

[Don't forget, as you make up your not-for-shopping list, that Pizza Hut is owned by PepsiCo, which also owns Taco Bell and Kentucky Fried Chicken.]

Changes at Maitri Hospice

[The following letter was sent to George Hurd, Director, Maitri Hospice:]

I read with interest your interview in the latest Hartford Street Zen Center newsletter. I wish to clarify a few points you discussed with Jennifer Birkett about Issan Dorsey's and the Zen Center's original plan for Maitri Hospice. I was living, working, and practicing at Hartford Street when Issan and I began the hospice project in 1987. Our simple intention was to care for members of our community who were sick and dying of AIDS as an extension of our spiritual practice. Issan, a Zen monk and teacher, wanted Maitri to be a place where Buddhist students would have the opportunity to take care of our dying friends. We envisioned it primarily as a part of a spiritual community where meditation and mindfulness practice were the basis of hospice resident care in a home-like environment.

Since Issan's death in 1990, the Maitri Board has made many decisions that have eroded the relationship between Buddhist practice and hospice care. Zen students no longer live at Hartford Street nor Maitri, and are not able to help create a practice environment of care and comfort for those who are dying. An obvious split has developed between Maitri staff and Zen practitioners, and the Maitri Board is now responsible for defining the nature of the hospice. As far as I can tell, this deterioration of the formal practice at Maitri led to the complete organizational separation of the Zen Center and the hospice in 1993, and, of course, now to the physical separation. Issan and I never envisioned that Maitri be a separate organization. Its heart is Buddhist practice. The present Maitri Board has defined the hospice structure and purpose so that it now resembles similar facilities in the community. Where previously Zen students came to practice in staff positions at the hospice, now these are considered career opportunities for whomever applies.

Also, it was our original intention that Maitri be a small residential facility so that a community such as ours with limited resources could care for our friends who were sick. Issan often said that if people wanted to be in a large facility, there were Coming Home Hospice and Laguna Honda. Our commitment was to create a small home-like residence where people lived and practiced together – nothing special, nothing grand. Keeping the place small was a conscious decision on our part so that a mindful atmosphere could be maintained, and our sangha would be able to realistically support such a project.

In the newsletter interview, you describe trying to capture some sort of spiritual energy or aura at the proposed new Duboce Street hospice location. Buddhist practice is at the base of what you refer to as "spiritual ambiance," and it was our strong intention and commitment to practice together in 1987 that made Maitri a reality, not some nebulous spiritual energy. The fact is Maitri began as a Buddhist practice place, but it is very clear to me that it is no longer that – to its detriment, I feel. Maitri had the distinction of being the first Buddhist hospice in the West, which is not true any more.

Finally I feel it's inappropriate for the Maitri Board and staff to use Issan Dorsey's name, his photos and his words in brochures and fund-raising literature to promote the hospice, when you have completely abandoned the spiritual practice that was the very heart of his life and teaching, and the basis of Maitri from its inception. I find this very sad.

I'm enclosing the first Maitri proposal that we put together seven years ago so you have some sense of our original vision. I hope this gives you an understanding of the fundamentally radical and, I feel, negative changes that have occurred at Maitri over the years.

David Sunseri
San Francisco

Sinusitis and herbal therapies

The article about the Immune Enhancement Project (IEP), and its NIH-funded sinusitis study, in the 3/23 issue of *B.A.R.*, did not include information that is extremely important to the HIV-positive community.

(1) The sinusitis study concurrently uses two distinct modalities (acupuncture and herbs), and IEP cannot isolate the benefits or drawbacks from either therapy.

(2) The use of Chinese herbal therapies in the treatment of HIV has been shown to be immunosuppressive and to contain high amounts of steroid substances that occur naturally in the herbs. These substances are anti-inflammatory and will suppress the symptoms of sinusitis, while also suppressing the immune system's ability to fight off infections. The results of the herbal trials of Enhance and Composition-A confirm this.

(3) As to IEP's involvement with the latest *cure du jour* (SPV-30), please be aware that in the past few years, SPV-30's maker, Arkopharma, has been ordered by the FDA to stop making false claims for a number of its other natural products. Until further study is done, there is plenty of reason to believe that SPV-30 is a sham treatment, or worse, immunosuppressive.

What the Immune Enhancement Project and most other licensed acupuncturists and herbalists are doing to treat HIV disease is certainly not traditional Chinese Medicine. Rather, it is pure human experimentation – in the name of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

W. Fred Shaw, L.Ac., Dipl.Ac.
Licensed Acupuncturist and Herbalist
San Diego, CA

Union power play?

After reading several of the recent letters to the editor regarding the unionization of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, I realized that the public is being taken for a ignorant fool by the union.

The repeated assertions that [Executive Director] Pat Christen is making \$120,000+ in salary is being continuously circulated by union proponents as evidence that the SFAF is financially out of control and is ignoring the greater needs of its clients. First of all, the above figure was supplied (and not verified by anyone else) by a person who by their very statements has their own agenda to put forward. Secondly, if the \$120,000+ figure is true, big deal. The union is pushing for a 6 percent across-the-board salary increase for its members. This flies in the face of the fact that inflation is less than three percent. Also, this raises the question of who is really gaining at the expense of the Foundation's clients. Is the six percent increase there to cover the union dues by any chance? Remember, the union claimed that money was not the issue.

Union proponents have claimed that the board of directors is not representative of the community it serves, which is AIDS/HIV-positive. Now if I remember right, it is against California law to require that a person reveal his/her HIV-positive status. Are union proponents asking that the foundation deliberately break the law and go against its own policies by requiring prospective Board members to reveal their HIV status? Since when does being HIV-positive necessarily qualify a person for a particular position? The foundation (as well as any other non-profit) needs the best people it can find for its board of directors, and limiting itself to people with HIV-positive status is self-defeating as well as possibly illegal.

The union has declared itself totally committed to a closed shop at the foundation. In the past the union has soundly criticized the Foundation for making its employees sign a Fire at Will agreement. A closed shop coerces employees to join and pay union dues or lose their jobs (no matter what their qualifications or abilities are). Therefore, if an employee decides that the union is not living up to their expectations and wants to leave the union, they can – but by the front door. The union proponents say that this protects the union, which it certainly does, but at the price of freedom of choice. This is nothing but an ill-disguised power play by the union.

The union is playing a deadly game, which has included personal attacks (many unfounded), half-truths and unethical methods in order to sway the public to its side. It's time that the public take a closer look at what the union proponents are saying and see if their arguments make sense. The public and the Foundation's clients are ill-served by a union which allows its members to commit unethical conduct for its own self-aggrandizement.

Paul Wever
San Francisco

Pete's Progress

With the California presidential campaign less than a year away, Governor Pete Wilson is quickly and effectively putting together an organization that seems intent on letting the other GOP presidential hopefuls (nine, count 'em, nine) know that this state is "Wilson territory." He is ready to knock any other Republican hopeful out of

Commentary

the race if they challenge him on his "home ground."

Bob Dole and Phil Gramm, fast becoming bitter political enemies, might be getting the bulk of the publicity as the two front-runners for the GOP nomination, but it is Wilson who is quietly putting together a national campaign that should be striking fear in the hearts of both senators. Although his campaign is still unofficial, Wilson pulled off a pretty neat political trick last week when he announced that Massachusetts Republican Governor Bill Weld, often called the "nation's most pro-gay governor," would become one of his national finance co-chairs along with three others: Newport Beach billionaire Donald Bren, former Texas Governor Bill Clements and wealthy San Francisco investment banker Thomas Weisel.

Any of the four finance co-chairs will be able to raise millions for Wilson, but clearly Massachusetts' Weld was the "big fish" caught this time out. He is extremely popular in most of the Eastern states, particularly neighboring New Hampshire, the site of the first primary February 20. He will be a definite asset to the Wilson campaign in what is shaping up as a New England regional primary March 5. "Bill Weld brings a lot of regional power and support to Pete Wilson," grumbled one Bob Dole staffer last week, admitting that Weld's endorsement is a psychological boost to Wilson in part because Dole has been so successful to date in recruiting GOP incumbent governors.

In addition, another bright GOP operative, Craig Fuller, a former top campaign aide to former President George Bush, will be named within weeks as Wilson's national campaign chairman (reportedly with Bush's blessing). Some Washington insiders are saying that the Fuller appointment could mean that the former president will eventually throw his endorsement Pete's way.

Also, Bill Clements, still a popular figure in Texas, coming

aboard the Wilson bandwagon was a wake-up call – not to mention a kick in the teeth – to Phil Gramm. The Texas senator, you may recall, showed up uninvited at a recent GOP state convention in Sacramento to announce that he intends to "put on a helluva campaign and win" here next year. Wilson publicly warned Gramm last week that "we intend to run hard in Texas," and some political analysts are saying that if Gramm and Dole get to dogging it out, Pete Wilson could very well come up a winner there.

If our governor is really intent on becoming a serious candidate, he, of course, needs to do well in the fundraising



Gov. Pete Wilson

department. A three-day telephone-bank operation last week staffed by big-name business and philanthropic leaders brought him pledges of \$9 million. Federal campaign reports reveal that Dole and Gramm have yet to hit that mark, and this upcoming presidential campaign should make it perfectly clear to both parties that if you haven't got the "big bucks," this race is not for you.

Perhaps that explains Dole's behavior of late; far from becoming the "moderate" presidential candidate that some had predicted hopefully, the New Dole is courting the Christian Coalition, the political arm of the religious right, and playing to the ideologues by denouncing gun control, abortion, and gay rights.

Politics and people

No more plugs in this column for those after election help-me-pay-off-my-debt parties! Like many of you, I am getting tired of certain local politicos who run for office, racking up all

kinds of bills, then expect the community to immediately help pay them off with "retire-the-debt" fundraisers. I didn't ask any of them to run in the first place, did you?

Oh, dear, wait until the Christian fundies hear about this one, Pete. The conservative Christian wing of the GOP, already pissed at the guy for being pro-choice, should know that he recently appointed Michael Sternfield, a former rabbi and longtime friend of Wilson and his wife, to the post of chief deputy director of the California Conservation Corps (which doesn't require confirmation by the state Senate) at an annual salary of \$78,372. It seems that Sternfield quietly resigned the pulpit of the 1,400-family Beth Israel congregation a year ago after it was revealed that he and an assistant rabbi had had an affair while both were married to others.

President Clinton showed the leadership of a *real* president after the hideous Oklahoma City tragedy; this man proved he really has heart.

Senator Dianne Feinstein is giving the GOP quite a fight in Washington on their plan to scuttle last year's gun control legislation.

Proof that politics is not a poor man's game: California candidates raised a record \$286 million in campaign contributions last year. Wilson and challenger Kathleen Brown raised \$50.2 million; Feinstein, \$13 million; and Huffy Huffington, a whopping \$29.4 million in a losing cause. Assembly Speaker Willie (or won't he?) Brown was the top legislative fundraiser, collecting \$6.8 million.

Former Governor Pat Brown, the grand old man of the California Democratic Party and scion of the state's most influential political clan, turned 90 last week, celebrating his birthday at his Beverly Hills home.

Considering all the years he put in working so hard for so many local Democratic candidates, it was surprising to see only three elected officials, DA Arlo Smith, Supervisor Carole Migden and former Supre Harry Britt, at the crowded funeral services Sunday for longtime party activist Richmond Young, one of the truly good guys. As one young mourner said to me, "You can sure tell an election year, can't you?" Richmond Young and Steven Lindsay, two special people, and the plague roars on. ▼

HOPWA

Continued from page 3

Neches said.

In addition to housing, residents will also receive a full range of social service and support services, including access to the church's meals program, which serves more than 3,000 meals a day to homeless and low-income Tenderloin residents. ▼

The Redevelopment Agency expects to receive an additional \$10.7 million in HOPWA funds from the 1995 federal budget.

Although the House of Representatives last month rescinded the 1995 AIDS housing funding in its recently passed budget, the funds were not rescinded by the Senate, and a decision about the amount of funding available from the 1995 budget is expected from the joint House-Senate conference in the beginning of May. ▼

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DYKEOTOMY

Alice in America

by Nancy Boutilier

That was no Easter Bunny that crossed my path a few weeks ago, not even the EverReady Rabbit. No, due to recent events in the news, I'm now quite certain that I've been following a White Rabbit in a waistcoat. Here in the rabbit hole the world just grows "curiouser and curiouser."

One poll makes you a large and visible community, and one poll makes you small (one percent?!). And some things are just too hard to swallow, like the story buried in the back news pages about a gay track coach at Encinal High School who has been harassed out of his job only to have the baseball coach allegedly laughing in front of students, "It's good that that queer has AIDS."

So enamored with his power and the nonsense he calls the Contract With America, Cheshire Newt leads a Republican Party that is grinning away with nothing to back up the smiles. And, as Alice said of the Cheshire Cat in Wonderland, "It's no use speaking to it till its ears have come."

No use indeed. Here's a recent stab at logic by a Republican lawmaker in North Carolina. Representative Henry Aldridge, urging the House Appropriations Committee to eliminate a state abortion fund for poor women, argued there need be no exceptions in the case of rape since "true" rape cannot cause pregnancy.

"The facts show that people who are raped — who are truly raped — the juices don't flow, the body functions don't work, and they don't get pregnant," Aldridge reportedly said.

Later, to clear matters up (?), Aldridge said, "To get pregnant, it takes a little cooperation. And

there ain't much cooperation in rape."

It sounds to me as though Aldridge has been consorting with the Queen of Hearts, who insists on the "sentence first — verdict afterwards" and whose solution to everything is simple: "Off with their heads!"

But the bigotry that passes for judicial opinion often sounds enough like rationalization for me to believe that the verdict is reached first and then the evidence is presented to fit the decision.

Not the only factor

Of course, people don't ever admit to the bigotry they uphold. They find all sorts of other "reasons" to throw into the

Commentary

mix, so they can say, as the Virginia Supreme Court did last week, that Sharon Bottoms's sexual orientation was not the only factor in its decision to deny her custody of her son, Tyler Doustou.

Not the only factor? Why should it be *any* factor?

Justice (oh, really?) A. Christian (yeah, right) Compton wrote this nonsense in the majority opinion: "We have previously said that living daily under conditions stemming from active lesbianism practiced in the home may impose a burden upon a child by reason of the 'social condemnation' attached to such an arrangement."

So, here's how the thinking goes. It's not the fact that Sharon is a lesbian that makes her unfit to raise her own child according to the court's prose. No, no, goes the rationalization. We're not discriminating against lesbians, but we're questioning the home environment. And the environment called into question is caused by active lesbianism practiced in the home. (Does passive lesbianism create a different environment? And, hey, wasn't the judge listening? Sharon is, after all, a Bottoms. Would he prefer that lesbians practice in the yard rather than the home?)

Oh, no, but it's not even the environment so much, but the "social condemnation" resulting from a lesbian arrangement, says the judge.

Well, then, let's not blame Sharon for society's flaws. So don't grant custody of Tyler to society. Easy enough, let's keep him in a home that will give him the strength and know-how to stand up to the bigotry which remains the law of the land. Gee, perhaps Tyler's mother could provide such an upbringing.

Instead, the court cited Bottoms's "difficulty controlling her temper" as a factor in declaring Bottoms an unfit mother. Well, I'd have difficulty controlling my temper, too, if the fate of my child were in the hands of a justice system that produces a logic that won't actually blame lesbianism (because acknowledging that might just draw charges of homophobia), but blames the way *others respond* to lesbianism.

More subtle form

A more subtle form of this argument has been coming from the president of a small liberal arts college in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Earlier this month more than 200 of the 560 students at Bradford College reportedly took over Academy Hall for a day. Student demands centered around the perception that students were without a voice in the school's decision-making process.

What seems to have sparked the protest was the decision by Bradford College President Joseph Short not to invite transgender lesbian activist/author Leslie Feinberg to speak at commencement. Feinberg was one of six individuals nominated by the seniors to give the graduation address. President Short said "no" to that option and eventually selected a faculty member from the list of nominees.

The local newspaper, *The Haverhill Gazette*, ran a scathing editorial applauding President Short for not inviting Feinberg. ("In this day of agnosticism and blatant attacks on moral and historic traditions it didn't come as a surprise to learn that a group of young students would seek a lesbian, abortionist or even a communist to bring them a vital message at commencement ...")

However, Short responded with a letter of his own, disavowing the editorial's homophobic praise, because, of course, as President Short wrote, he deplores "ugly and ignorant harassment and discrimination against gays."

Unfortunately, that leaves room for pretty and calculated discrimination. President Short suffers from a Short-sightedness reminiscent of Judge Compton. Yes, Ms. Feinberg, you are welcome on our campus most days, we even study your book *Stone Butch Blues* in a humanities course here at Bradford, but no, you are not welcome at graduation.

Why not? Well, as President Short puts it, Feinberg's "humane, intellectual, and inspiring presentations of self and views ... could easily be drowned out or even exploited by those who are anti-gay, want to defeat her views and values, or even sell newspapers by sensationalism."

No, your lesbianism isn't the problem, nor your transgender politics, the problem is the way others, those bigoted others (of whom I am not, goes the rationalization), respond to who you are and what you might have to say.

As always, other issues are thrown in, so you won't get the wrong idea and think that sexual orientation is the *only* factor in this decision. In this case, the sanctity of a graduation ceremony must be preserved. Feinberg's presence would, in President Short's opinion, result in a controversy that "would defeat the student and family celebration of the seniors earning and receiving their degrees."

But wait. I'm waking up, and this isn't Wonderland after all. Students at that tiny New England college I used to ride my bike past are reading *Stone Butch Blues* for homework. They have enough admiration for the work of Leslie Feinberg to nominate her as their graduation speaker. While the president balks at that particular suggestion, he does make his pro-gay attitudes public and also invites Feinberg to campus for a non-graduation occasion.

"Curiouser and curiouser." There may be reason for hope, after all. ▼

Seems Like Old Times

by Mary Ann Swissler

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

While the onslaught of anti-gay initiatives has become increasingly brutal recently, it's important to remember they are not new, but simply back in fashion. This week in 1974, our own California State Senate was considering SB39, which (simply put) would have reclassified homosexual acts as felonies. Those convicted would face from six months to five years in a state prison — as if putting men behind bars discouraged homosexual acts!

The gay community swiftly reacted and, after objections were aired at a March 5 hearing, the language of SB39 was toned down. According to a Friends Committee on Legislation spokesperson, "Legislators heard first-hand accounts of job discrimination, of women losing custody of their children because of their sexual preference, and of countless indignities showered daily on the 6-10 percent of the population who are gay."

One Criminal Justice Committee member was quoted in the *Advocate* as having wondered aloud, "Do we want police officers to go around keeping people from showing love, when they should be spending their time keeping people from killing each other?" Not everyone was so progressive; some would obviously answer his question "yes." And there are some legislators who would attempt to criminalize homosexuality — past and current ones — simply because they cynically believed it would be a reliable vote-getter among those people.

The Reverend John Williams of the International Museum of Erotic Art wrote about that kind of person in a *Bay Area Reporter* editorial 21 years ago this week, "For too long, lawmakers have been victimized by the sexual neurosis of a small minority of the public who must have considerable political influence, to enchain the rest of society in ignorance."

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Since then, according to Robert Bray, Fight The Right Organizer with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, there have been a total of 15 wins and 55 losses of gay/lesbian/bisexual related referendum measures.

"The last victory was in January 1995, in West Palm Beach, Florida, when a gay rights law was retained 56 percent to 44 percent," he said. Also, according to Bray, eight states have civil rights statutes in place, 18 states have executive orders that ban discrimination in state employment, at least 87 cities and counties have civil rights ordinances, and at least 39 cities or counties have city council or mayoral proclamations that ban discrimination in public employment. He emphasized that these numbers are continually up for grabs through right wing referendums.

One certifiably happy ending: even the watered-down version of SB39 was regressive legislation, and it thankfully went down in defeat, but not without a hard fight. ▼



A Streetcar Named Desire

The Hampton Harbor Club West took advantage of last weekend's warm weather and the otherwise-unused streetcar waiting island at 17th and Castro. Beach boys David Ayotte, Ross Caperton, and Tim Sullivan adorned the spot Saturday afternoon, enticing passersby with their bronze skin and wide variety of snack foods.

S.F. Gay Pride Parade: Televised Live in '95

This year, for the first time ever, the city's gay pride Freedom Day parade will be broadcast on commercial television. The celebration will be carried live from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, June 18 on KOFY-TV (Channel 20) and rebroadcast beginning at 8 p.m.

Karen Provenza, promotion director for KOFY, said she will be co-producing the parade coverage. "We wear many hats at KOFY," she laughed, "and we're pleased to be doing it."

The Pride Parade coverage will be hosted

by James Gabbert, the gay owner and president of KOFY, Provenza said. "We're trying to nail down a co-host and another person to provide commentary," she said, and while it's still early, "Plans are coming together."

The theme for this year's event is "A

World Without Borders." Judging from attendance in previous years, some 500,000 people are expected to participate or spectate along Market Street.

- Kent Brandley

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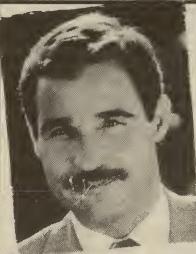
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As a community service for friends and supporters of Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco, California Pacific Medical Center Foundation would like to extend an invitation to you to join us for a special seminar on Estate Planning for Single Persons. The seminar will be conducted by Erica Rosenblatt, Esq., a San Francisco attorney specializing in estate and trust law. Ms. Rosenblatt will discuss planning techniques specific to safeguarding the estates of single persons, wealth preservation, and planning for surviving partners.

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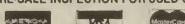
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GLAAD

The buns of a bigot

by Al Kielwasser

Dave Thomas, founder of the Wendy's hamburger chain, has written a new book, entitled *Well Done*. In his book, the perpetually self-congratulatory Thomas relishes praise upon heterosexual supremacists (and media mogul) Pat Robertson. Specifically, Thomas commends Robertson — an arch-homophobe — for "doing things right" and promoting "wholesomeness and family values."

Not surprisingly, Wendy's advertising dollars have provided further support for Pat Robertson's media interests. Thomas himself has been a guest on Robertson's daily TV show, *The 700 Club*.

Wendy's restaurants should know that homophobia is always in bad taste! Contact Dave Thomas, Wendy's Corporate Headquarters, 4288 West Dublin-Granville Road, Dublin, OH 43017, tel. 614-764-6800, fax 614-764-6894.

Fair Coverage

The May '95 issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine features lesbian supermodel Rachel Williams, shown in a two-page lay-out with her girlfriend (and musician) Alice Temple. The happy couple are seen lounging together — as supermodels will — while the accompanying text quotes both women about their new-found relationship.

The *Vanity Fair* spread offers a matter-of-fact picture of lesbian love, in an industry routinely dedicated to matters of fantasy. Hopefully, the visibility of these lesbians will encourage others to come out in the modeling, fashion and entertainment fields.

Over the years, *Vanity Fair* has covered a number of lesbian, gay and bisexual subjects. Most notably, the magazine published a recent (Feb. '95) fourteen-page feature story about homophobic murders in Texas. *Vanity Fair* is also the magazine that dared to speak k. d. lang's "dream-date fantasy," by posing the lesbian singer with model Cindy Crawford in a now-infamous cover photo.

Send encouraging feedback to Graydon Carter, Editor-in-Chief, *Vanity Fair*, 350 Madison Avenue, New York, NY, tel. 212-880-8800, e-mail vfair@aol.com.

Textbook Activism

Estimates from the U.S. Department of Justice suggest that lesbians and gay men are the most frequent victims of hate violence in this country.

According to a survey conducted by the American Association of University Women, U.S. schoolchildren fear one form of harassment over all others — being called "gay."

What's the connection between these two reports? It's both sickening and simple: children who are afraid of — or hate — the word "gay" are likely to become adults who are afraid of — and hate — gay people.

Whenever we fail to teach the truth today, we pay for it — many times over — tomorrow. Until we reduce the homophobic bias so common in textbooks, there will be no end to our need for special counseling programs, anti-violence campaigns and suicide prevention hotlines. Public education offers the most humane, efficient and cost-effective means for dealing with homophobic bigotry.

Recently, the influential California State Board of Education formed an "Ad Hoc Committee on Hate/Violence." While the Board of Education is composed almost entirely of right-wing homophobes (appointed by California governor and presidential hopeful Pete Wilson), this new committee offers an important platform for advancing curriculum reform. Given the committee's focus, the public can demand the Board's attention to the role that textbooks can — and must — play in combating homophobia. After all, unless the Board of Education begins to spend tax dollars on books that include fair and accurate information about lesbians and gays, our schools will continue to teach a curriculum of hate and violence.

The members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Hate/Violence are S. William Malkasian (Committee Chair), Gerti B. Thomas, and

We must confront the media's homophobia in order to cure it! To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage call our 24-hour media watch hotline at 415-861-4588, or write to "Media Watch," Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/San Francisco Bay Area chapter, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103; tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaad_sfba@aol.com.

Gary L. Weston. Send feedback to each, at the California Board of Education, P.O. Box 944272, Sacramento, CA 94244-2720, tel. 916-657-5478 (and remember, even if you do not live in California, it is still important that these board members hear from you; as a leading purchaser of textbooks, California sets national standards for the content of books used across the country). For additional information about textbook activism, contact "Project 21," c/o GLAAD, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103, tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaad21@aol.com.

Advertiser's Snow Job?

On March 2nd, The Sports Authority company placed a quarter-page advertisement in *The Charlotte [N.C.] Observer*. The ad depicted various sale items in an "end of season ski clearance," and the caption under one pair of boots read: "You'll ski like a faggot with these!"

On March 3rd, the company placed another ad, which announced: "WE APOLOGIZE." This ad, in the form of a letter from company Vice President Richard Lynch, went on to say that the previous advertisement "included language that was inappropriate and offensive to our loyal customers and the residents of Charlotte. The use of this language was obviously in error. The individual responsible was terminated immediately and safeguards have been put in place to ensure this does not occur again."

That apology failed to satisfy some local activists, however, who have noted that The Sports Authority's letter never mentioned lesbians or gays. David Stout, the editor of *Q Notes*, a North Carolina lesbian/gay newspaper, called the apology "regrettable." According to Stout, the company "directed their apology towards 'loyal customers and the residents of Charlotte' rather than those who were truly demeaned. Doesn't The Sports Authority believe that gays and lesbians deserve a direct apology for the needless emotional pain that was caused by the advertisement?"

In a March 24th letter to Stout, Richard Lynch attempted to defend his apology. Lynch wrote: "In crafting The Sports Authority's apology, ALL groups that might have been offended were considered. The conclusion reached was that potentially many groups were offended, including groups who do not necessarily support the gay and lesbian lifestyle."

Say what? Does Lynch mean to suggest that his apology was intended for homophobes, who might have been offended by the inclusion of "faggots" in any roster of skilled athletes?

This and other questions should be posed to Richard J. Lynch, Senior Vice President, The Sports Authority, 3383 North State Road 7, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33319, tel. 305-735-1701 or 800-765-8721 (ext. 6070 or 6071), fax 305-677-6028.

Media Briefs

• Media Resources For Media Watchers ... *EXTRA!*, the bi-monthly magazine published by FAIR (Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting), devotes a special March/April '95 edition to "The Right-Wing Media Machine" (*EXTRA!*, 130 West 25th St., New York, NY 10001, tel. 212-633-6700, fax 212-727-7688); A recent issue (vol. 20, no. 3) of the journal *Critical Sociology* is dedicated to queer issues, and includes several pop culture/media-related articles (*Critical Sociology*, Dept. of Sociology, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, tel. 503-346-5039); The April '95 issue of *Z Magazine* includes David Barsamian's article on the "Right-Wing Take-over of Public Broadcasting" (*Z Magazine*, 18 Millfield St., Woods Hole, MA 02543, tel. 508-548-9063, fax 508-457-0626).

• The Medium Is The Modem ... The newly-updated *Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Internet Resource Guide* is a comprehensive listing that covers everything from newsgroups to WWW pages. For details, contact Phillip Mason, 403 Stringtown Road, Williamsburg, KY 40769-9727, e-mail phillip@igloo.com.

LIFE and Death: Sacto Gay Lobby Gets Bomb Threat

by Dennis Conkin

A bomb threat to a Sacramento-based lesbian and gay AIDS lobby forced police to evacuate the 14-story office building that houses the group and scores of other non-profit agencies on Tuesday, April 25.

The bomb threat was phoned into the office at about 9:30 a.m., LIFE (Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality) AIDS Lobby director Laurie McBride told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

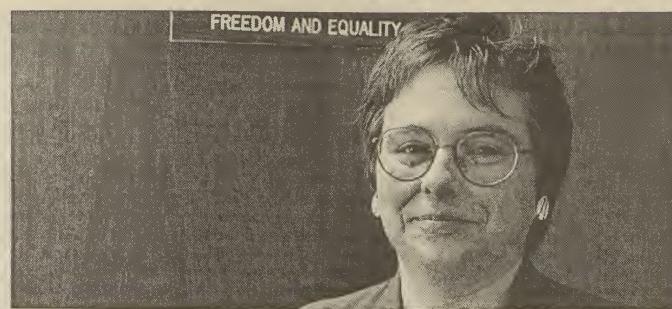
The call was taken by a staffer who had only been on the job five days, McBride said.

"It was the voice of a hostile adult male who was not intoxicated," McBride told the *B.A.R.* In addition to making anti-gay slurs such as "Die, Faggot, Die," the caller also said that employees who didn't want to die should get out of the building immediately.

Staffers were told to evacuate the building and alert other workers at the 926 J Street site, McBride said.

The entire building of 300 employees was evacuated as Sacramento police and State Capitol police responded to the bomb threat.

"We've had crank calls in the past, but we've never had a death threat," McBride said.



Laurie McBride

Police went through the building floor by floor, and later escorted McBride through the Life Lobby offices on an inspection. No bomb was found and the call was determined to be a hoax.

McBride said the caller was intent on creating fear and panic at the site.

"The caller knew exactly what he was doing. He knew exactly what effect it would have and just wanted to intimidate us and

mess with our minds," she said.

Offices in the building have initiated security measures and are being very careful about mail, following a Sacramento bomb blast the same day that killed the head of the California Forestry Association.

McBride said that the bomb threat to the LIFE Lobby was no less a terrorist act than the bomb blast at the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. ▼

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Twelfth International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Set for May

Mayor Jordan Sponsors Event in 47 Nations, 250 Cities

by Kent Brandley

For the first time in its twelve-year history, the letterhead of the annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization for 1995 lists San Francisco's mayor as the worldwide event's principal sponsor.

The event will be observed this year on Sunday, May 21 in 250 cities in 47 nations. The memorial began in San Francisco in 1983 to honor the memory of those who had died of AIDS and demonstrate support for people living with the disease. It is now coordinated internationally by Mobilization against AIDS, and has become the world's largest annual community-based AIDS event, according to Program Director Ben Carlson, who will play an important role in this, his sixth candlelight memorial.

"Observances range in character from small gatherings in houses of worship, to huge marches through city centers," Carlson told the *B.A.R.*

Part of Carlson's task has been sending participating groups and communities elsewhere a "coordination kit" that helps them follow organizational steps – such as obtaining permits, speakers, and participants.

"In some cases, participation in the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization marks a community's first acknowledgment that AIDS is a local issue, as well as a national and global issue," Carlson said.

"In addition to raising awareness, the event offers a public demonstration of compassion and solidarity to people whose illness often makes them the target of fear, hatred, and discrimination."

San Francisco route

The San Francisco observance is traditionally the largest in the U.S., Carlson said, drawing about 10,000 people for each of the past several years.

This year, as in years before, the event is helped along by a \$35,000 supplemental appropriation request from the mayor's office, the *B.A.R.* learned from Robert Oakes, Mayor Frank Jordan's gay/lesbian liaison. The board of supervisors approved a supplemental request for the mayor's office to assist the event again this year.

The 1995 parade destination will be slightly different, Carlson said, due to seismic retrofitting at City Hall, which has been the destination for past marches.

Local participants will gather at 8 p.m. at the corner of Castro and Market streets, then will walk in a candlelight procession, down Market Street to Memorial Court, a pleasantly landscaped area between the Opera House and the War Memorial Building. The War Memorial Building is pinch hitting as City Hall while repair work is being done on the historic structure.

Carlson said a short ceremony will be held on an outdoor stage at Memorial Court from 9 to 9:45 p.m., featuring music and speakers.

"AIDS Hero and Heroine Awards" and shared remembrances of those who have died will be part of the ceremonies, according to Carlson. Last year three awards were given, but this year's awards recipients had not been named at press time.

Carlson urged participants to supply their own candles and protective cups, although a limited supply will be available at

the beginning of the event. ▶

Mobilization Against AIDS

seeks volunteers to help staff the event. To find out more about volunteer opportunities, call (415) 863-4676.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

HRC's New Project: To Prevent HIV Discrimination

by Kent Brandley

A new San Francisco Human Rights Commission project aimed at reducing workplace discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS is already generating significant telephone calls and public interest, according to project coordinator Cynthia G. Goldstein.

The new "HIV in the Workplace Technical Assistance Project" will help people with HIV as well as employers, service providers, and business owners who want to learn more about their legal rights and responsibilities and how to work together to effectively address the impact of HIV, Goldstein said in a brief interview with the B.A.R. The project was barely announced last Monday, April 17 when phones began ringing, she said.

The project was developed in response to hundreds of calls for assistance received by the HRC since it began enforcing San Francisco's HIV anti-discrimination ordinance in 1985. "During the past ten years the commission has learned that discrimination is preventable," Goldstein said. "Educating people about their legal rights and obligations, and helping them to communicate with others about

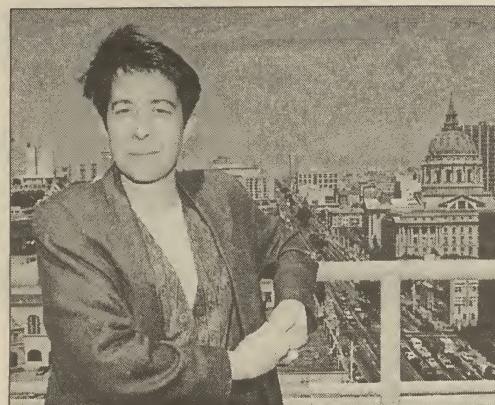


Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

The HRC's Cynthia G. Goldstein: "...Most people with HIV, and most employers...don't know their rights and responsibilities."

the impact of HIV, acts as an effective weapon against HIV-based discrimination."

"Nationally, approximately one in ten small businesses and two-thirds of large businesses have encountered an employee with AIDS or HIV infection," according to Human Rights Commission Director Edwin Lee. "In San Francisco we know these numbers are even higher.

Keeping people with HIV in the work force makes good business sense, because it means retaining skilled employees. It also allows people with HIV and AIDS to extend their productivity, extend their health insurance coverage, and extend their lives."

The project, which Goldstein called a "preventative measure," will be conducted in phases: the first mailing has already been

sent to targeted organizations, including AIDS service organizations that are often strapped for time and personnel.

"We know from years of experience that most people with HIV, and most employers and service providers, don't know their rights and responsibilities. It became clear to us that education is key to preventing discrimination," she said. "It's often an avoidable tragedy when a valued employee leaves his job and loses his insurance believing he has no options for continuing to work; or when a client in need of service is denied it because the client or the service provider doesn't understand what the law requires."

Project staff will assist employers in developing and implementing workplace policies, and will provide training and education for management and staff on laws governing HIV in the workplace, Goldstein said.

A brochure entitled "HIV In The Workplace - Technical Assistance Project" is now available to all interested parties. ▼

For further information call Cynthia G. Goldstein at (415) 252-2500.

Six New Members Named to LGBT Advisory Committee

by Kent Brandley

Six new members have been named to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission for the forthcoming term, the Bay Area Reporter learned Monday from Larry Brinkin of HRC. The addition of the six new members brings the total HRC membership to 19.

In selecting the committee members, Adele Morrison of the HRC said the selection subcommittee made a special effort to reach out to populations that had not been represented within the committee.

The selection subcommittee also recommended that the appointment process be kept open so that committee members could consider applicants from the Native American and Latin communities, as well as young people of color.

The new members appointed to the LGBTAC by Human Rights Commission Chair Lucille Abrahamson were:

• Quang Dang, a gay man and youth activist with LYRIC. Dang, 23, was born in Vietnam and has also been active with Q-Action, the young

men's program of the Stop AIDS Project. Dang is a first year law student at Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley.

• William Bland, a gay man with the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and an African-American man living with HIV. Bland is an officer with LGADDA (Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action).

• Timothy Horning, a 20-year-old youth activist who identifies as bisexual and who is also active with LYRIC. He is youth columnist for *Anything That Moves*, a magazine for bisexuals.

• Edward Kaufman, a former intern with the Human Rights Commission who is about to receive his Master of Social Services degree from San Francisco State.

• Shadow Morton, a female-to-male gay man active in Female to Male International and part of that organization's speakers bureau. Active in the leather community, Morton is former co-chair of the Parade Committee and is one of the founders of International Ms. Leather.

• Laura Perez, a bisexual activist and California State Treasurer of LLEGO (Latin Lesbian and Gay Organization) who is also employed as an executive assistant at GLAAD. ▼

Alameda

Continued from page 1

Most of the estimated \$260,000 in savings would go to the Adult Immunology Clinic at Highland Hospital to make up for other cuts it has suffered, according to AAB member Ursula Bowman. Ironically, the plan would upset at least one program it is intended to save: Charles Richardson, who runs emotional support groups for people with AIDS and their families at that clinic, told the B.A.R. that Ryan White cuts would spell the end of his program, Positive Lifestyle Changes.

"You go into the Adult Immunology Clinic at Highland and you see the number of people with AIDS there, and then you look at the number of people there who have cancer or people on dialysis. In comparing the two, then you can see how budget cuts are going to affect this community," said Richardson, who also facilitates the groups at the East Oakland Recovery Center and the Oakland Hotel. ▼

The Town Hall Meeting will be next Friday, May 5 at noon at the board of supervisors' chambers, located at 1221 Oak Street in Oakland.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Crystal Abuse and Its Toll on the Community Has Walden House Picked Up or Dropped Speed Ball?

by Kent Brandley

After a March 9 symposium on crystal methamphetamine use among Bay Area gays and lesbians proved the issue was a source of community-wide concern, enthusiastic organizers promised another larger meeting to address the correlation of speed addiction to HIV transmission sometime later. It is now seven weeks later, and that meeting has yet to materialize.

Matthew Denckla, a gay man with the Marin AIDS Project who called for community interaction on the issue, said Walden House, Inc. of San Francisco volunteered to carry the ball after the March meeting. According to early information provided by Denckla, Walden House staff members originally planned to discuss the matter on Tuesday afternoon, April 4, but that meeting never took place.

One week later, on Tuesday, April 11, a Walden House staff member finally responded to the B.A.R.'s repeated calls to say the social service agency had not yet determined the time and place for the community meeting, but would do so and make an announcement when it was settled. The delay was caused by staff preoccupation with "an onsite visit from a funding agency," the staff member said.

Walden House is due to receive \$339,319 in federal cooperative agreement demonstration grants as part of a \$4 million program announced last October 17 by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala. Shalala's office said the program — the first federal grants awarded specifically to develop mental health services for persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families or partners — would target groups hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, including gay and bisexual men, homeless persons, people of color, and substance abusers.

Methamphetamine abuse is the greatest present and future substance abuse issue among gay men in the Bay Area, according to experts. One recent survey found one in three gay male San Francisco respondents acknowledged recent crystal use.

HIV educators are greatly concerned that the aphrodisiac qualities of the drug may be leading an increasing number of gay men into riskier sex practices. "Those two problems [of speed addiction and HIV transmission] are strongly related," Denckla said.

Walden House now predicts the next symposium to discuss the problem will be delayed until "sometime in late May." ▼

Leal

Continued from page 1

Bill Clinton or Vice President Al Gore will make an appearance at the meeting.

"I think the meeting is being taken very seriously by senior White House officials," said Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund spokesperson Kathleen De Bold. "The people we are dealing with have high levels of access to the President. We have spoken with the vice president's people but the president is harder because his schedule changes so much and it all depends on what is happening on the day of the meeting."

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is assisting Leal in convening the meeting, and has established a scholarship fund to help those officials who could not otherwise attend the meeting.

The Washington gathering will also allow lesbian and gay political leaders to have their own meetings, Leal said.

"There are always people talking about what the national lesbian and gay issues are and this will actually get a number of us to talk about what the national agenda is," Leal said.

Although Leal acknowledged some cynicism among political observers about the Clinton administration's commitment to the lesbian and gay community, she said that she remained hopeful.

"I still have hopes for the Clinton administration because the alternative is really very scary," she said.

De Bold also told the Bay

Area Reporter that "while there are some concerns" about the Clinton administration's response to specific lesbian and gay issues, there is no question of its broad support of lesbian and gay rights.

"People need to remember that Clinton is the first president to appoint gay men or lesbians to his administration. It's important to recognize the gains made during this administration. It's also important for these elected officials to meet with officials and speak about their issues and concerns," De Bold said.

Leal told the B.A.R. that she has been assured the White House is making every effort to have Gore or Clinton meet with the officials, and that the success of such efforts will say a great deal about the administration's commitment to the lesbian and gay community.

Earlier this year, Vice President Al and Tipper Gore hosted a reception for gay and lesbians affiliated with Human Rights Campaign Fund at the official vice president's residence.

In addition to the meeting at the White House, Leal said the group of lesbian and gay elected officials will also meet with key legislators in a coordinated series of Congressional visits.

Leal, an attorney and health care management executive, is the former Counsel to the United States House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. ▼



Photo: Rick Gerhardt

Fashion Victim

Audience favorite Markus Cook (right) chats with other contestants at the Third Annual Bike Messenger Fashion Show April 20. Cook's stunning ensemble featured a bright red car door, which he reportedly acquired courtesy of an inattentive motorist. The show was just part of the pledge drive for the 11th Annual AIDS Bike-A-Thon May 13, which benefits Project Open Hand. For more info or to volunteer or register, call (415) 255-4167.

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GLHS Hires Jabloner as New Gay/Lesbian Archivist



Photo: Rick Gerhardt

Archivist Paula Jabloner examines a costume that once belonged to the legendary Sylvester, just one of the more unusual collection items she will catalog at the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society.

by Kent Brandley

Meet Paula Jabloner, the new archivist for the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California. And in the process of meeting Paula – if you aren't familiar with GLHS – meet the important heretofore all-volunteer independent non-profit educational organization that hired her as its first employee after ten years of perseverance and growth.

GLHS holds over 700 newspapers, magazines, literary journals, and organizational newsletters published in Northern California since the 1950s, coordinates an ongoing oral history project to document the lives of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals in the Bay Area, publishes a newsletter, *Our Stories*, and produces exhibits and programs. In addition to an impressive array of manuscripts and archival material – including every issue of the *B.A.R.*, on microfilm and in individual issues in acid-free sleeves – the GLHS archives also houses the collections of several eminent photographers of the gay and lesbian community, hundreds of posters, paintings, leaflets, pamphlets, catalogs, T-shirts, buttons, and other memorabilia of political campaigns, events, clubs, bars, and baths.

And as any collector knows, amassing is easy; cataloging and keeping track is the hard part.

After a nine-month nationwide search, GLHS hired Jabloner, a 31-year-old lesbian with a B.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Michigan, to undertake those tasks. She spent the last few weeks in town, meeting the board, analyzing the task ahead, and speaking with the *Bay Area Reporter*, before flying back to New Jersey to continue working as an archivist with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) at Princeton University through September. She will be back on the job in San Francisco in October.

As archivist at the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, Jabloner told the *B.A.R.*, she will process about 500 feet of stacked material over a period of two years, with the help of volunteers. "Once processing is complete, access to the wonderful collections at GLHS will be made considerably easier," she said, adding the material was "a very valuable research collection and a community asset."

"This collection is not just for academics but for the whole community," Jabloner said during her interview at the present GLHS offices deep in the basement of 2940 16th Street (in the Redstone Building, next to Theatre Rhinoceros, near Mission). The only view there is created by historical photographs, documents, and memorabilia adorning the walls.

Jabloner says the Northern California collection includes "some absolutely fabulous stuff, and we're getting more all the time – especially now with 'queer theory' and the interest in gay and lesbian history and culture."

"Most of our material has not been processed, and that's what my job is going to be: to make it much more accessible," she said. Some of the collection has already been processed by Susan Stryker, she said, but much work remains yet to be accomplished. And she is mindful of what is necessary to get the job done: "You have to be very well-organized – you can't lose things," she laughed.

"Some people keep really neat records, some people don't."

The state of the current collection rests between those extremes, she said, as does the variety of new acquisitions: "They can come as piles of papers in a box or in correctly labeled file folders, which makes our work easier."

Jabloner also said her work was made easier by GLHS founding member Bill Walker, a gay man and a professional archivist himself, who had been "really wonderful and extremely knowledgeable" during her visit.

Walker, who told the *B.A.R.* he is working on the AIDS History Project at UCSF, and was ill with a "touch of pneumonia," has been acting archivist for GLHS. Jabloner, he said, "will be able to work really well with the variety of people she is going to come into contact with – volunteers and board people." But, he added, her main focus is going to be on processing the collection.

"I think it's important to point out this is the first community-based queer archives that has hired a professional archivist," Walker told the *B.A.R.*. He added that Jabloner was "fully qualified and smart. She picked up very quickly [on the job ahead] and recognizes the unique quality of this collection."

Jabloner is looking to her return with enthusiasm. "I love the city, I'm really looking forward to moving out here," she told the *B.A.R.* (When she does so, she said, she'll be traveling solo.) These days, since there's not much going on at Princeton, she frequently visits New York – and, she said, there's even "much more going on here." And she has the documents to prove it. ▼

The archives are open Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m., and at other times by arrangement. To make an appointment for research, obtain membership info, donate materials, or volunteer, or if you have questions, call the Historical Society at (415) 626-0980.

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Friends for Life: Ready to Book

by Kent Brandley

Friends for Life, a new project of the San Francisco Public Library, has recently trained dozen of volunteers eager to bring books and tapes to people with AIDS/HIV who cannot come to the library themselves, according to project coordinator Karen Strauss.

Now that volunteers have been trained, Friends for Life is enlisting potential clients and is accepting applications from people who are residents of San Francisco, have a diagnosis of AIDS/HIV disease, are primarily confined to home or an institution and have a case manager assigned to supervise their care.

In February, when the *Bay Area Reporter* joined other local newspapers and radio

stations in calling for volunteers, 75 individuals responded, many of them from the gay community. "B.A.R. readers alone accounted for one third of all interested respondents," Strauss said.

By mid-April Friends for Life was able to provide nearly ten hours of training for this group of volunteers, thanks to outstanding assistance from staff at visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco, Bayview-Hunter's Point Foundation AIDS services, Kairos Support for Caregivers, and the San Francisco Public Library, Strauss said. ▼

**Individuals who want to
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Young Gay Writers, Artists Sought

GLB History Month Essay/Logo Competitions Announced

by Kent Brandley

It might not have made much of a splash on the calendar in 1994, but backers of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month expect its ripples to grow bigger when the nationwide observance comes around again this October.

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN), a formerly Massachusetts-based group that now boasts 21 chapters in major cities and is in the process of establishing new headquarters in New York, has announced its plan to make the event more interesting: by offering youths 22 and under a chance to compete in two contests commemorating it and, not-so-incidentally, offering prizes of \$250.

GLSTN Executive Director Kevin Jennings, author of *One Teacher in 10 and Becoming Visible* (a gay history for U.S. kids), gave the B.A.R. background on the project.

"In 1994, a grass-roots network of teachers and community members across the country began working to see October recognized as Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month," he said, "inspired by such existing celebrations as Black History Month [February] and Women's History Month [March]. Organizers sought to create a time when attention could be focused on the contributions of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people to America's development."

"Organizations like the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force quickly endorsed the idea, and political leaders such as Governors William Weld [of Massachusetts] and Lowell Weicker [of Connecticut], and Mayors Richard Daley [of Chicago] and Thomas Menino [of Boston] issued proclamations to celebrate this inaugural event on October 1, 1994," Jennings recalled.

This year, GLSTN will sponsor the "first-ever essay and visual arts competition for students aged 22 and under to commemorate the second observance of LGB History Month," Jennings said.

The two competitions ask students to produce work explaining the importance of the subject to them. Writers are asked to submit essays of 750 words or less answering the question "Why is Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month an important event?"

Essays will be reprinted in

mainstream and gay publications around the nation in October, Jennings said.

Artists are asked to submit work that "takes off on the theme of lesbian, gay, and bisexual history to produce a design which will then become the official logo of the October, 1995 event," Jennings said.

All submissions must be received by June 15. ▼

For more information or to enter, write the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month Competition, c/o The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN), at Box 390526, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006, or by e-mail to GLSTN@aol.com.



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BANGLE's Gay Scholarship Finals Tonight Young Gay Scholars Lauded

by Kent Brandley

The best and brightest of the gay, lesbian, and bisexual high school students in the Bay Area are due for recognition, and four or five are going to get it. They will split approximately \$3,500 in scholarship money to be announced at the Fifth Annual Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Scholarship Awards Dinner in San Francisco Friday, May 19.

The event, sponsored by Pacific Gas and Electric's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Employee Association in cooperation with the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators (BANGLE), is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Gabbiano's Restaurant, located at One Ferry Building.

Frank R. Romeo, vice president of the Lesbian and Gay Employees Association at PG&E, and spokesperson for both groups in this regard, said members of the scholarship committee planned to interview students tonight (Thursday, April 27), after which five students would be selected as finalists. Three or four awards will be distributed tomorrow night, Romeo told the *Bay Area Reporter*, two

of which would be valued at \$1,000, and up to three of \$500 value.

"The scholarships not only reward and recognize Bay Area high school students in their academic achievement, but also their dedication and sensitivity to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community," Romeo said.

This year, for the first time, the two groups announced they will award a scholarship fund in memory of the late George Kronenberger.

The 1995 Kronenberger Scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,000, and honor the memory of the man who was a founding member of LGBA and who initially coordinated the scholarship awards with BANGLE.

Also for the first time, GALEEMUS, the Pacific Telesis gay and lesbian employees association, will become a major contributor to the growing scholarship fund.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Julia Thoran, chair of San Francisco's Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Romeo said. ▼

For information call Frank R. Romeo at (415) 973-0770

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Davidson To Depart from ACLU; Announced at '95 Awards Dinner

By Karen Ocam

About 70 dedicated people turned out for the ACLU's Lesbian & Gay Rights Chapter Human Rights Awards at the Wilshire Ebell in Los Angeles Saturday, April 22, at which it was first officially announced that ACLU fixture Jon Davidson will leave his senior attorney position to join Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The evening's theme, "It's Our Constitution Too!" and the news that the Virginia Supreme Court had ruled against ACLU client Sharon Bottoms that morning [see related story],

prompted honorees and presenters to speak thoughtfully about the state of lesbian and gay rights in American politics today. Highly regarded Chapter President Mike Reynolds presented Chapter Vice President Kathy McConn the Peter Thomas Judge Chapter Activist Award, calling her "the most dedicated person I have ever known.... A good friend and an inspiration." McConn received a standing ovation.

Assemblymember Sheila James Kuehl presented Assemblymember Richard Katz, her "big brother in the Assembly," with the Human

Rights Award. Katz, she said, has "gone beyond other friends" of the community, aside from Terry Friedman, in pushing Sacramento legislators hard to pass the Domestic Partners bill that Governor Pete Wilson vetoed.

"He has done what people do when they risk, when they give up their own privilege and identify with the pain and hatred" of an oppressed class like gay and lesbian people. "This is a man who gets it," Kuehl said.

In his acceptance speech, Katz said it was particularly meaningful to receive the award from Kuehl, who is "a joy and a pleasure to watch" at work because she "adds a dimension of wit, intelligence, and compassion" to the state body.

But Katz also said he was sad and disappointed because, as a result of term limits, he will not be around next year and therefore will not be in the Legislature to see Domestic Partners eventually signed into law. He said he was also very concerned about "the anger and hostility and bitterness in the new crop" of legislators whose "zeal is unmatched" - which, he warned, makes them "dangerous."

"The new Republicans, he said, are "hard-core ideologues whose goal is to create a world that doesn't include you and me." He pointed to the devastation in Oklahoma City as an example of "what happens when hatred is allowed to boil over." It is therefore even more important that people stand up for "tolerance, compassion, and basic human values - the rights of everyone everywhere - and until we have that, no one is ever really free."

Laurie McBride, executive director of LIFE Lobby, presented LIFE co-chairs Roger Coggan and Audrey Cover with Community Activist Awards. In another eloquent moment, Jon Davidson, standing in for Navy Petty Officer Keith Meinhold, presented attorney John McGuire with the Steven Kelber Courageous Activist Award, named for a lawyer who was instrumental in the ACLU's early battles for lesbian and gay rights and given "to an attorney who has bravely and significantly advanced the

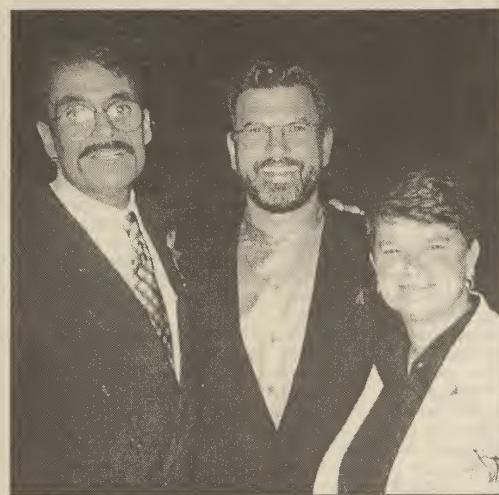


Photo: Karen Ocam

Terrific trio: (from left to right) ACLU's Mike Reynolds, Assemblymember Richard Katz and lesbian Assemblymember Sheila James Kuehl.

cause of civil liberties for the lesbian and gay community, and this year's recipient is especially deserving of recognition."

Davidson enumerated McGuire's courageous feats, including his successful battle on Meinhold's behalf. "It takes considerable fortitude to engage the resources of the Pentagon and the Department of Justice in court; to compile over 1,000 pages of documentary evidence demonstrating that a Defense Department policy has no legitimate rationale basis; to work long into the night fighting emergency appeals and request for stays to the Courts of Appeal and United States Supreme Court; and to argue a pivotal gay rights case to the appellate courts while being televised on Court TV.... And it takes steadfast dedication to quit your job and find employment elsewhere in order to be able to represent a client in the way you believe he should be represented."

"John McGuire, who is currently associated with the law firm of Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler, has done all of these things and more."

For his part, McGuire

acknowledged the work done by Davidson and attorney Mary Newcombe, who were "in the trenches slugging it out" long before he joined the gays in the military battle. Their "pivotal" work, he said, forced the military to "explain why" they need the ban. He is dismayed that attorneys for the Administration still insist they need not "explain why" - arguing that since Congress and the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the military leadership all decided that the ban is needed is reason enough - but is heartened by so much refusal to automatically accept the government's position.

"We must keep asking 'Why?' until it doesn't have to be asked anymore," McGuire said.

There were several deserved ovations for Davidson throughout the night after Reynolds disclosed that the brilliant attorney was leaving his ACLU senior staff position for a job with Lambda. Davidson said it was a "difficult" decision, but "pledged to continue his support" of the ACLU.

The ACLU is conducting a national search for his replacement. ▼

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Nevirapine

Two groups of volunteers with 200-500 CD4: those who have taken AZT for 4-24 months, who receive either AZT plus NVP or AZT plus placebo, and those who have not taken antivirals, who receive NVP or placebo. The study offers cross-over to active drug for all participants. Boehringer Ingelheim.

For further information,
please call the Client Care Coordinator at (415) 353-6215.
HIVCare is a program of the Clinical Research Department
at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, 900 Hyde St., SF 94109.

This Year's L.A. Parade Honorees Announced

Christopher Street West, the organization that produces the annual lesbian and gay pride celebration in West Hollywood, has chosen recently re-elected Los Angeles School Board Member Jeff Horton and Assemblymember Sheila James Kuehl to be the Man and Woman of the Year.

Former Olympic diver Greg Louganis, who recently disclosed his AIDS status, will receive the Dr. Tom Waddell Award - though Louganis will not be present for the parade,

according to CSW President Michael Yates. The athlete will be in New York that day, serving as the Grand Marshal for that city's gay pride parade.

Other honorees include the Gay Asian Pacific Network and Wallis Alpertson. Mickey Jackson of Aunt Bee's, a laundry service for PWAs, will receive the Harvey Milk Award.

- Karen Ocam

Alameda Finds 'Unbelievably High' Crypto Level in Area Water

And Yet, There's No Early Warning System for PWAs

by Kent Brandley

Authorities from the Alameda County Water District have contacted the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission twice in the last month, to report significant recoveries of the waterborne parasite cryptosporidium at their distribution system in Fremont.

The first samples were collected March 20 and 21, seven days after a big storm in the vicinity of the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, in an area of Alameda County where water supplied by San Francisco's water department comprises an estimated 40 percent of the total supply. The crypto level that day was 334 oocysts per 100 liters, according to written information provided to the *Bay Area Reporter* by Supervisor Carole Migden's office.

In an April 6 memo to PUC commissioners, PUC General Manager Anson Moran called the 334 oocysts/100 liters figure "unbelievably high."

A second sample collected March 22, in an area served exclusively by SFWD water, showed 7.7 oocysts per 100 liters of water.

A crypto level approximately twice that high led to an epidemic of the intestinal disorder Cryptosporidiosis in 1993 in Milwaukee. The disease claimed over 100 lives in that

brief outbreak, and made more than 400,000 people ill.

Cryptosporidiosis is painful, exhausting and humiliating, according to persons who have it and have spoken to the B.A.R. about it. Besides water contamination it can be passed through animal contact, on unwashed produce, and through fecal contact including sexual contact and as a result of condom removal.

Unreliable, and maybe not viable

Officials have gone out of their way to downplay the March test results in Alameda County, even going so far as to suggest the crypto they found is not infectious.

"The staff has not yet confirmed the field conditions in which the samples were collected," Moran said.

Hetch Hetchy Program Manager Steve Leonard wrote to directors of public health and various water quality officials throughout the Bay Area on Friday, April 14 to alert them "that cryptosporidium was recently found in drinking water that likely originated in the San Francisco Water System." However, he also pointed out that counts had not been consistent and more recent samples showed far lower numbers.

Interim Health Officer for the Alameda County Health Care



Services Agency Dr. Barbara Allen also wrote area doctors, to say she believed this was an "isolated incident resulting from heavy rains and flooding late in March ... and subsequent tests reports have demonstrated a return to prior levels" – and to remind them that Cryptosporidiosis is a reportable disease in California.

"There is substantial uncertainty about what these results mean," a news release from Alameda County Water District said. "Although the best available method for cryptosporidi-

um analysis was used, there are significant limitations, including:

- The oocyst count could not be confirmed;
- It is not possible to tell if the cryptosporidium observed was the species capable of infecting humans;
- It is not possible to tell if the cryptosporidium oocysts were viable."

In carefully crafted bureaucratese, the release says the state of California is keeping an eye on the city's water supply. "The San Francisco Water

Department is engaged in a process of correcting deficiencies at this plant [Sunol Filter Plant] and is committed to follow procedures that should prevent inadequately treated water from being delivered in the future. The State Department of Health Services is providing oversight to the process to insure this commitment is met."

There is no commitment at this time by the water department or by the Department of Public Health to alert city residents with a "boil order" when crypto levels rise above a given threshold. Some health officials have said they fear the risks of scalding to PWAs and others who would boil their water to kill the cysts are greater than the danger posed by the crypto itself.

Migden has vigorously sounded alarm bells about the lack of an early warning system, despite some criticism for having heightened public awareness of the possibility of crypto contamination in the water supply.

The U.S. government currently sets no allowable standard for cryptosporidium in drinking water. Gay U.S. Congressman Gerry Studds of Massachusetts had introduced preliminary legislation for that purpose, but it was tabled as part of the Contract with America. ▼

Cal Health Department Expands AIDS Drug Assistance Program

by Frank Winter

California's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which provides life-saving drugs to people living with HIV, has been expanded to include 18 additional drugs, state Health Director Kim Belshé announced in a statement dated March 15.

"This program provides a critical link in health care for thousands of Californians living with HIV and AIDS," Belshé said. "Access to therapies not only enables HIV-infected persons to stay healthier longer but also cuts down on the cost of HIV care to the public health system."

The newly-covered drugs are: stavudine, trimethoprim, megestrol acetate, bleomycin, cyclophosphamide, dexamethasone, doxorubicin, methotrexate, prednisone, vinblastine, vincristine, itraconazole, filgrastim, epoetin alfa, alpha interferon, dronabinol, trimetrexate glucuronate, and leucovorin.

Stavudine (d4T/Zerit), which is the newest anti-HIV drug to receive FDA approval, is the fourth antiretroviral treatment to be made available through the state AIDS drug assistance program, according to Lynda Frost, spokeswoman with the California Department of Health Services in Sacramento. Stavudine has been approved

for treatment of people with HIV infection who no longer benefit from other approved antiretroviral therapies, Frost said. Stavudine is a nucleoside analog that blocks viral replication. Other antiretrovirals available through ADAP include didanosine (ddI), zidovudine (AZT), and zalcitabine (ddC).

For the first time, drugs for the treatment of AIDS-related cancers will be available through ADAP. These therapies include: bleomycin (Blenoxane), cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan), dexamethasone (Decadron, Hexadrol), doxorubicin (Adriamycin), methotrexate (Reumatrex), prednisone, vinblastine (Velban) and vincristine (Oncovin).

Established in 1987, the ADAP initially offered two medications: AZT and aerosolized pentamidine.

The ADAP is available to people whose private insurance does not cover drugs or who do not qualify for Medi-Cal. The program is available free to clients meeting eligibility requirements. Co-payments are required of those whose income exceeds 400 percent of the federal poverty level. The ADAP is a program of last resort for those with no other means to access AIDS drugs. ▼

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NATIONAL NEWS

Gay Leaders Discuss Plans, Goals, Dreams, Gripe

by Bob Roehr

Five national leaders offered varying institutional perspectives on the topic of "The State of the Movement 1995" for lesbian and gay Americans on Thursday, April 20 at the second annual forum of that name sponsored by the Washington chapter of the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association. The program was taped for later broadcast by C-SPAN.

The most surprising statement was delivered by Melinda Paras, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and former deputy director of Shanti Project in San Francisco.

"NGLTF decided to step back from some of our active roles, in our lobbying and legislative efforts in Washington," she said, so quietly and so deftly that few in the room recognized what it was news. There was no further discussion. But it did make official what had grown apparent over the last six months: that the nation's oldest and second-largest gay and lesbian political organization was abandoning the rationale for a presence in Washington.

The group was founded in New York City in 1964, opened a Washington office in the early 1980s, and moved its headquarters there a few years later. The board felt their national mandate demanded it.

The change comes in the spirit of "cooperation and division of labor and effort," said Paras, "because HRCF [Human Rights Campaign Fund] was doing such an effective job."

However, withdrawal from these areas did not inhibit Paras from saying "the Republican majority in Congress is extremely dangerous to lesbian and gay rights." Nor did it restrain her from asserting that "AIDS funding will be cut," a view not shared by those who do the actual lobbying work on AIDS issues.

The challenge to survive

"We have one simple challenge, given who we are, and that is survival," said Cornelius Baker, deputy executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA).

Responding to a question on bathhouses, he urged that the community look to the root of the problem: "an oppressive society that denies [gay men] their sexuality and that does not engage in treating them as whole and dignified persons."

"Isn't it more relevant," he asked, "to look at the issues of gay men's sexuality, whether they are practicing it in a home or in a bathhouse, in terms of our self-worth, our self-dignity – of wanting to live."

"It is important to instill in every person the concept and idea that life itself is sweet and it is worth living, and we must endeavor to survive."

Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, agreed, saying, "The community must be responsible for its own behavior."

"The government can't put a condom on," he said.

Evan Wolfson, attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, hammered away at the "radical right who constantly portray us as promiscuous and unstable," yet "consistently oppose every measure we put forward to define and protect our families."

He called gay marriage the source of "huge legal, political, and cultural battles ... that will undoubtedly eclipse the military battles in terms of their emotional power and the opportunity they give us to talk about who we are, not just as individuals but as people who love, people who have families." He predicted the battle would be coming in the next year or two.

The nascent debate over affirmative action "is a

move to dismantle something that is not even enough," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of HRCF. "It is being used to launch a number of presidential campaigns."

Both she and Paras called for increased tools for affirmative action, but agreed that the concept was not a relevant remedy to apply towards the discrimination that lesbians and gays face.

Wolfson observed noted that "discriminations do play out differently. ... We don't have to get into the business of ranking, because all discrimination is wrong."

Tafel dissented from characterizing opening the discussion as presidential campaign gambit. He called it "a serious question," and urged a "return to the goals of the country, that people should be judged on their merits and nothing else."

When asked about isolation from the daily experience of typical lesbians and gays, Birch said, "Having been on the job about 12 weeks, and having actually come out from the country to Washington, D.C., I think I still have a clear memory of what life used to be like." The life to which she referred was when she was employed as lead litigation attorney with gay-friendly Apple Computer in Cupertino, California.

The straight press: quite excellent

Birch then went on to criticize the gay press, calling it "often inaccurate in its presentation of the work of the national organizations." She praised the mainstream press for "quite an excellent job of covering NGLTF and HRCF."

Tafel followed by observing that "we [leaders of national gay organizations] are either [portrayed in the gay press as] the Mafia, people who sit together and decide the fate of the community, or we are at war with each other, those are the two interesting stories."

"From an AIDS perspective we would applaud the gay and lesbian press, because certainly the general media has not covered this epidemic adequately," countered Baker.

He had fewer kind words for the straight media. "The single most important educational vehicle in our society is the broadcast media, which still resists airing condom ads in prime time. Which still resists accepting advertising from condom manufacturers. Which still resists depicting gay men as healthy, wholesome people in its entertainment and in its news broadcasts."

Paras joined in with his criticism, citing mainstream portrayal, "particularly of gay men," which is "by and large really awful."

The entire panel stressed the importance of coming out to family and friends, and at the workplace.

"We have to reach out to the American public, particularly the publics we have ignored in the past," Tafel said, specifically citing the Republican Party and Catholic Church.

Birch was optimistic that polling data and attitudes on Capitol Hill indicate "this nation has crossed a line regarding gay and lesbian issues."

"I do not believe that either party has written off the gay vote," she said.

"We need to start thinking in new ways, and start thinking in terms of our liberation," Baker said. "And that is our responsibility." ▼



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Lesbian Mom Loses Latest Custody Battle

by Mike Salinas

The future of Virginia lesbian mother Sharon Bottoms was placed in doubt Friday, April 21 when she was judged "an unfit custodian" of her son Tyler by that state's supreme court.

Bottoms has been battling for custody of Tyler since 1993, when a local juvenile court ruled she was unfit and the boy was placed into the home of Bottoms's mother and the woman's live-in boyfriend. The reason given at the time was that Bottoms commits a felony under state law every time she has oral sex with her lover, April Wade. The Virginia Court of Appeals later reversed that decision, ruling that Bottoms's sexual activity did not justify the removal of her child from her care, but the boy remained with his grandmother even after that ruling was handed down.

The most recent decision, written by Justice A. Christian Compton, referred to Bottoms's sexual

orientation but carefully avoided using it for the court's entire justification. The 4-3 majority also based the decision – despite testimony from a court-appointed psychologist that Bottoms was a fit mother – on testimony that the 25-year-old woman has relied on others for support and that she has a history of frequently moving.

The court's position on lesbianism was that Tyler would be subjected to "social condemnation" if he were raised by Bottoms.

The three dissenting judges, led by Justice Barbara Keenan, observed "there is no evidence in this record showing the mother's homosexual conduct is harmful to the child."

"The majority improperly presumes that its own perception of societal opinion and the mother's homosexual conduct are germane to the issue whether the mother is an unfit parent."

The American Civil Liberties Union, which represents Bottoms, vowed to press on with the case. ▼



Photo: Rick Gerhardt

Setback for Sharon: The Virginia Supreme Court's decision last week was a blow to Sharon Bottoms (right), seen here with lover April Wade.

Pelosi

Continued from page 1

appropriation at the beginning of Clinton's term," Donnelly said.

The annual Public Health Service AIDS Budget is currently \$2.7 billion dollars, and was cut about five percent for the 1995 fiscal year, Morin said.

There are additional proposals to increase that budget to \$2.9 billion, but at the same time, the 104th Congress wants to cut one third of all federal budget spending that is not related to defense, he said.

Turning money into liquid cash

"We're still dealing with the

Ryan White reauthorization," said Mobilization Against AIDS deputy director Ben Carlson, "but more broadly we're dealing with efforts to reduce the national budget by slashing spending."

He told the *Bay Area Reporter* that a key item of concern among AIDS policy experts and advocates is the Republican fondness for block grants to states over allocations by federal agencies.

"If they eliminate a federal program and allocate funds to the states through block grants, they turn the money into liquid cash and can say they've cut 15 to 20 percent off the top – and say they are still doing something for HIV," Carlson said.

The problem with HIV pre-

vention block grants, Carlson said, is that states can decide to spend the funds how they wish – and the process becomes more politicized. He said he was concerned that certain groups at high risk with little political power, such as African-American gay men or injection users, could find their prevention needs seriously underfunded or ignored in certain states.

It's hard to express how serious this is'

AIDS public policy expert Kerrington Osborne of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the meeting is an attempt to convey to local resi-

dents just how serious the political situation is – and to mobilize and plan for a national response.

"It's hard to express how serious this is," Osborne said. "What we are trying to do with this is give people an example of how deep the cuts are with the 104th Congress and what we are seeing around AIDS issues."

Osborne said that all AIDS needs from research and treatment to housing and other services will be adversely affected by the 104th Congress.

Morin said while Pelosi and other Congressional representatives were developing strategies to respond to Republican initiatives and ideologies, communi-

ties affected by those policies must also "organize and speak out" in forums like the Town Hall meeting.

"It's really going to be an uphill battle, and we want to mobilize and organize at the grass roots level and find ways to bring our information and facts to other parts of the country," he said.

Morin also predicted that in addition to cuts in AIDS services, other controversial measures would surface in the current right wing political climate – including a push for widespread mandatory AIDS testing.

"I'm sure the issue will be revisited," he said. ▼

Supreme Court

Continued from page 1

presentation.

"What is the evidence to show that purpose?" asked Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Darling asserted the trial judge was in error in making his decision. He said the council did not care about the sexual orientation of the participants but did care about "those who celebrate [Irish heritage] in the same way."

Much of the Justices' questioning centered around whether the banner GLIB carried, which spelled out its name, was "identification" or a "message."

"If you combine a message and a value, you have a viewpoint," argued Darling.

Not so, said John Ward, attorney for GLIB. He called the banner "self-identifying." He agreed that groups could exclude "solely on the basis of message," but that the council hadn't done it on that basis, citing the finding of the trial court.

He called the council's objection to the banner identifying the group "paradigmatic of discrimination."

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor put the argument into a different context: "Suppose the circus came to town," she asked, "and an animal rights group wanted to join with their signs?" The analogy only muddied the waters further, as courts have traditionally used different standards for commercial speech (such as a circus) than for political speech.

Moments later on the marble plaza outside the court both parties met the press. Darling reiterated his definition of the case

as one of "free speech versus government intervention." He thought that messages on "any sexual theme" were "inappropriate" because they were "not family-oriented."

Ward responded, "This is discrimination that they have tried to cloak in the First Amendment."

"They just don't like us because we are gay and lesbian," said Cathleen Finn, speaking for GLIB. "We are an invisible minority and we have to stand up and take our place."

Support for GLIB's legal position within the gay and lesbian community has been mixed. Tom Stoddard, former executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, expressed the views of many when he said, "You lose your association rights when you operate in public... they [the council] do have a right to exclude." He made the comments on the PBS program *Freedom Speaks*.

Others have raised the specter of gay pride parades being forced to include groups such as the KKK if the court rules in favor of GLIB.

Mary Bonauto, an attorney with Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) who has been involved with the case from the start, does not share that concern. "Ninety-nine percent of the time I would be in support of the First Amendment, but this is clearly not a First Amendment case." She said that the council was "caught up in the net of discriminating."

The Justices gave little indication how they might rule. A decision is expected before the close of this session at the end of June. ▼

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Michael L. Canfield

May 11, 1957 - April 14, 1995

On the morning of Good Friday, Michael peacefully left this world as we know it. By his side was his partner, Jeffrey Archambo; his mother, Patricia Canfield; and his brother, Daniel Canfield.

Michael finally succumbed to AIDS complications after many years of health, positivity of spirit and his innocent Iowan humor. Although his last 18 months were more challenging than most people would ever know, each day began and ended with his unforgettable smile.

Missy's big adventure began in Waterloo, Iowa, where he was born and raised. Then he was off to Minneapolis and Chicago before settling in San Francisco, where he made his home for the past nine years. With his 6'4" frame, Michael was an extraordinarily successful flirt, especially at the Badlands and the Midnight Sun. Although an Eagle devotee, his loyalties lay forever with his two life partners, Larry Petko and Jeffrey Archambo.

Michael is survived by his partner, Jeffrey; his oldest friend, Ernie; dear friends, Anna, Dar, Margaret and Paula; Tess the cat; his family; and many others.

Until we meet again, Michael; you will always be with us. We love you, Punkin. - Boy ▼



Michael Wildman

March 26, 1953 - April 7, 1995

Michael died peacefully April 7, his indomitable will to live finally overwhelmed by the disease with which he had long struggled. His loving parents were with him. He also leaves two sisters, four brothers, three nieces, three nephews, other family and friends. Michael grew up in Westerville, Ohio, and attended the Columbus School of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio. In 1973 he moved to San Francisco, his well-loved home for the rest of his life. Until the retirement forced by his illness, he worked for the San Francisco Hilton Hotel.

A memorial service celebrating Michael's life will be held April 30 at 1 p.m. at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St., San Francisco. ▼

Donald LeRoy Lippe

April 2, 1933 - April 11, 1995

Donald Lippe, also known as Donald Lipper, was born in Wichita, Kansas, and, besides his many residences in San Francisco over the past 30 years-plus, has lived also in Palm Springs, San Diego and Santa Fe as well as Paris, Amsterdam and Provence. He is survived by his mother, brother, nephew, companion Dan and many, many friends.

Through his zest for life which allowed for no compromises, Donald remains a larger-than-life role model for us all. He is deeply missed. A memorial gathering for Donald will be held at 2154-A Market Street (between Church and Sanchez) on Saturday, April 29, 4-7 p.m. ▼

Monica Cuervas

Nov. 23, 1951 - April 4, 1995

Monica passed away early in the morning on April 4. At her side and caring for her during a long and courageous struggle during her final months were her friends Joe, Tony, Karen, Shirley, Paul and Sandy. She was survived by her sister Gigi and mother Yolanda. We all love and miss her very much.

Monica came to the Mission District from Peru with her family in 1963. She graduated from Westmore High School in Daly City in 1967. A spirited, warm and loving person, she was a devoted companion and a fastidious homemaker. A memorial service was held on April 12, and a celebration of her life was attended by her friends at Aunt Charlie's Lounge on Sunday, April 23. She was like a sister to many of us and will live on in our hearts and memories. We miss you, Sister. ▼

Jim Freedgood

A service to honor the memory of Jim Freedgood will be held at Temple Emanuel (2 Lake St., San Francisco) on Sunday, April 30, at 11 a.m. ▼

California coast.

Edward was active in the AA movement since 1980 and looked forward to celebrating his 15th year of sobriety on June 1. At the time of his death, he was actively pursuing Alcohol & Drug Rehabilitation Studies at UC Berkeley, while serving as a volunteer counselor for 18th Street Services and Haight-Ashbury Alcohol Treatment Services.

A long-time member of the Trinity Episcopal Church, Edward served two terms as vestryman and was senior warden in 1989. Edward will be forever missed by his family of loving friends in San Francisco, his many relatives in Illinois, by Michael and their beloved dog, Duffy.

All who knew Edward are encouraged to attend a memorial service and reception at Trinity Episcopal on Sunday, May 7, at 4 p.m. Contributions may be made to either 18th Street Services or Haight-Ashbury Alcohol Treatment Services. ▼

Obituary Policy

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Charles Austin Shively

Dec. 3, 1967 - April 19, 1995

Chuck was born in Ventura, California, but spent most of his life in Texas. He came to San Francisco in 1989. The tall, lanky, handsome guy had a walk, a drawl and a wonderful smile that said, "Texas," but he came to love San Francisco. He is survived by his father, Ron Shively; his mother, Linda Elmore; sisters and brothers, Shelly Kelly, Philip, Laura and Ron Shively; and his wonderful grandparents, Ray and Ellie Shively.

Chuck died peacefully of AIDS in his sleep in the Professional Care Center in Dallas. His lover, Mike Winston, and many friends in San Francisco will miss Chuck.

Friends will gather at the Broadway Pier at the foot of Broadway and the Embarcadero, by the Waterfront Restaurant, at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 29, for a brief celebration of Chuck's life. For further information, call (415) 928-7558 (Rob or John) or 931-4274 (Mike).

Thanks to Shelly, who came to SF to accompany Chuck to Texas, to all his family and friends there, to the kind staff of the Care Center and to Chuck's San Francisco family of loved ones who were there for him in his illness. ▼

Robert "Rob" Sterman

Dec. 2, 1952 - April 21, 1995

Robert Alan Sterman, 42, of San Francisco, died April 21. He was born in Alabama; his parents were Myron and the late Jeanne Sterman. He lived in San Francisco for seven years and was employed by Specialty Brands Inc.

Robert passed away at the home he had shared with his lifelong companion, Glenn Nelson. Glenn died of AIDS in 1994. Robert died surrounded by his loving and caring friends after a brave battle with AIDS. Some of his last words were an expression of thanks to all those individuals who were there for him spiritually and physically during the last days of his life here on earth.

Robert was a faithful member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. He freely gave of his extraordinary computer skills. He provided in kind computer service for a great many gay and lesbian groups, including the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, Metropolitan Community Church and AIDS Benefit Counselors.

His friends are invited to gather in his memory and celebrate his life at his home at 16-A Ford Street on Sunday, April 30, at 3:30 p.m. ▼

Edward Allen Hart

Dec. 6, 1950 - April 20, 1995

Edward's spirit ascended peacefully at mid-morning on Thursday, April 20.

With him was his longtime companion, Michael Hiltz. A resident of San Francisco for 23 years, Edward was a recognized local photographer in the 1970s. He loved nature and enjoyed hiking at favorite spots in the High Sierras and along the

California coast.

Edward was active in the AA movement since 1980 and looked forward to celebrating his 15th year of sobriety on June 1. At the time of his death, he was actively pursuing Alcohol & Drug Rehabilitation Studies at UC Berkeley, while serving as a volunteer counselor for 18th Street Services and Haight-Ashbury Alcohol Treatment Services.

A long-time member of the Trinity Episcopal Church, Edward served two terms as vestryman and was senior warden in 1989. Edward will be forever missed by his family of loving friends in San Francisco, his many relatives in Illinois, by Michael and their beloved dog, Duffy.

All who knew Edward are encouraged to attend a memorial service and reception at Trinity Episcopal on Sunday, May 7, at 4 p.m. Contributions may be made to either 18th Street Services or Haight-Ashbury Alcohol Treatment Services. ▼

Jeffrey Glenn Jones

Oct. 3, 1953 - April 19, 1995

Born in Alaska to the late Col. (USAF) Dorrie and Marion Mears Jones, Jeffrey grew up primarily in Honolulu, where he attended Punahoa High School. After the University of Texas, he became manager of the Tropic World Nursery in San Diego. He was also a sales representative for Sigma Giftware and was a saleswoman at the Obelisk on Castro Street. His final employment was with Accent on Flowers.

Jeffrey died of complications from a seven-year bout with Krohn's disease, at home, attended by his partner of 12 years, Neil Housewright, and their dear friend, Terri Springer. He is survived by his sisters, Christi of Sitka, Alaska; Patti of Deerfield Beach, Fla.; and Susan of New Orleans; brother, Todd of Sitka; and stepmother, Evelyn Jones of Seaside, Calif.

A service will be held May 5 at 4 p.m. at the 7th Avenue Presbyterian Church. Memorial gifts may be sent to Network Ministries, 559 Ellis, San Francisco, CA 94104. For further information call 923-0753. ▼

Ted Edward Flynn

June 11, 1956 - April 20, 1995

Ted (also known as Ken), a tall and lanky Canadian, graduated from life at 9 a.m. Thursday, April 20, in the presence of sisters, Rhonda and Karen; his roommate of about 20 years, John; and a visiting nurse. He accepted his bout with AIDS with resignation and seemed to bear it patiently until the end.

Ted was a calm and gentle one, sociable at the SF-Eagle or Castro bars, home parties, or at parades and street fairs. He was also a serious student of the Bible with fundamentalist yet tolerant interpretation. Heated exchanges might also be broken by his good sense of humor and sense of the ridiculous.

He arrived here from Edmonton, Canada, about 1977 and was handy as a painter and maintenance man at his own apartment building and others. Increased restrictions on residence and work led him to apply for an amnesty program in 1988 when he discovered his HIV status.

After a viewing Friday, April 21, at Driscoll's Mortuary, his sisters accompanied his remains home to Edmonton for a graveside service and burial. One of 10 children, his sweet spirit will be missed by family and friends. ▼

Alvin Harry Snodgrass (Stand Alone Wolf)

March 26, 1952 - April 18, 1995

After celebrating 16 proud years of being clean and sober, and about as long battling HIV, Alvin passed in his sleep while doing what he loved most, traveling the countryside and camping with his devoted Pomeranians, Zachary and Bernice. He always knew that wasting away was not for him and that his spirit would choose the time and place while his life was still enjoyable.

He spent his years giving support to those who could benefit from his seemingly unending strength. Anyone who knew Alvin respected him for his courage and deep understanding of what is at the root of who we are.

He left behind his friend and lover, Leif Wauters; his parents, Bertha and Frank; sisters, Rowena and Barbara; numerous other relatives; and hundreds of friends from Pittsburgh to Washington, from Rapid City to San Francisco. We will all miss his beautiful eyes, his powerful figure and his radiant heart.

A celebration of his life will be held at his home Sunday, May 14, at 2 in the afternoon. If you need more information, call 337-5555. Please bring a dish and your memories to share. ▼



Sigma Giftware was and a saleswoman at the Obelisk on Castro Street. His final employment was with Accent on Flowers.

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Local Asian Pacific Islanders AIDS Agency Takes National Lead on 3TC

by G'dali Braverman
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers Pool

In early February, GCHP, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance Community HIV Project (GCHP), decided to begin dealing directly with pharmaceutical companies. GCHP is well known for being the first local Asian Pacific AIDS agency to provide multilingual direct services in the form of case-management to Asian Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS. "Providing treatment advocacy to clients has become an essential component of services," said Danny Yu, Director of GCHP's Department of Social Services.

After the many news releases from the January Human-Retroviruses Conference, GCHP's clients began asking their caseworkers about the reported benefits of 3TC when used in combination with AZT. "There was a sudden and renewed interest in antiretrovirals," said Paul Shimazaki, coordinator of the agency's Living Well Program. Validating this interest was critical, especially since many Asian Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS have historically expressed skepticism around the use of western interventions. So when clients and their doctors reported problems with accessing 3TC, GCHP decided to go right to the source, the drug's manufacturer, Glaxo Inc. At that time Glaxo representative Jennifer McMillan reported that requests for 3TC, through the Expanded Access Program, had tripled.

With over 800 applications being submitted each week, Glaxo found itself unable to process requests within the 2-3 week timeline it had previously promised. So GCHP worked with Glaxo to identify and solve problems. The company consequently made minor changes in the application that helped to simplify the process for physicians, resulting in less backlog for patients. Nevertheless, despite a streamlined application process, the company faced challenges in producing sufficient drug to meet the growing number of requests. So, on March 27 Glaxo sent out press releases to community groups, stating that the drug would only be shipped to fill 350 applications nationwide per week.

Since GCHP presently provides case management to some 125 people with HIV/AIDS, one might think that the agency could step back from this problem. Why then did GCHP demand that Glaxo immediately fly out to San Francisco for a meeting? The answer is quite simple according to Steve Lew, Executive Director of GCHP.

"Like most people of color living with HIV/AIDS, the majority of our clients access their healthcare through Public Health Clinics. We need to assure these people that they won't find themselves at the bottom of a waiting list for a promising medication," Lew said. Moreover, he reported that many of GCHP's clients only enter the system and begin accessing care at a later stage of HIV disease. GCHP wanted to make sure that a mechanism



Banner event: GCHP's Prevention Education Director Rafael Chang (left) and Support Service Director Danny Yu (right) hold up their share of the load at a recent parade.

would be established to ensure nationwide prioritization for people who needed 3TC most. Glaxo had no such mechanism in mind, and was prepared to accept applications on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Having less than 300 CD4s (T-cells) is the primary eligibility criteria used in the 3TC Expanded Access Program. While the company also requires that patients have failed on AZT, ddI, ddC, and d4T, neither physicians nor Glaxo have been stringent in following that requirement. Community groups insisted that, despite limited supply of drug, criteria for eligibility not be changed or more strictly enforced.

At the same time GCHP produced a document proposing a prioritization mechanism for applicants requesting drug after the April 1st announcement of 350 slots per week. This document was a compilation of input derived from GCHP clients and from a group of people with AIDS who call themselves the "Under 50 CD4 Group." They meet regularly to strategize on accessing treatments and surviving/thriving with less than 50 CD4s.

In short, at the April 10th meeting, GCHP proposed two solutions. First that a four-tiered wait list be established, allowing people with less than 50 CD4s (T-cells) first access. The second through fourth tiers would have wait lists according to patients' CD4s, grouped as follows: 50-100, 101-200, and 201-300 CD4s. Thus, as long as new applications were submitted for people with lower T-cells, those would be filled before any new or old applications for persons falling into a higher CD4 category.

The second proposal was that within each of these categories two groups be identified: those accessing therapy through public health, vs. private practitioners. Because of the additional burdens facing public healthcare physicians, the greatest majority of the 14,883 people enrolled between October 1993 and April 1, 1995 were patients with private practitioners and insurance. Their doctors generally have office staff to assist in more rapidly enrolling patients into expanded access programs. "It's a simple reality," said Shimazaki. "People of color and

those with lowest income are the last to access new unapproved therapies. GCHP is going to bat to make sure that these communities are not the first to be cut-off to 3TC."

To that end, GCHP gained the support of representatives from a coalition of East and West Coast agencies and organizations specializing in Treatment Advocacy and activism, including ACT

UP/Golden Gate. Using GCHP's document as a model, the groups agreed that Glaxo should prioritize applications from public health within each CD4 category.

"We need to remind Glaxo that all things aren't equal. This expanded access program should provide data towards 3TC approval: data which must not disproportionately represent effect based on a population using only private HIV care," said Jeff Getty of ACT UP/Golden Gate.

As of April 20th Glaxo appears to have accepted GCHP's proposal for prioritization according to CD4. However, the company is not yet willing to implement wait lists based on public vs. private care. Instead, the company is offering to work with GCHP and community groups to outreach to underserved communities. We have told Glaxo that outreach is an independent issue. No amount of outreach alone has proven to be successful in significantly increasing enrollment of underserved communities into past expanded access programs, according to Shimazaki.

Glaxo is projecting completion of a manufacturing facility in September of 1995; allowing for ample supply of drug to market, the company will seek

FDA approval shortly thereafter. Regardless of the supply/approval timeline, if Glaxo refuses this community proposal (in its entirety by the end of April) ACT UP/Golden Gate will undoubtedly take action against the company. Meanwhile, GCHP has agreed to continue negotiations. ▼

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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY

ACT UP Golden Gate: meets Tues. nights, 7:30pm at Mobilization Against AIDS, 592A Castro St. Info: 252-9200.

African-American AIDS Support Services: Support group for young men, 1st & 3rd Wed. of each month, 6pm. Amassi, 3419 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. (510) 601-9066.

AIDS Benefits Counselors: Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Community Research Consortium conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia Unit at St. Mary's Med. Center seeks volunteers. Call Ed Schultz, 750-4976.

AIDS Health Project: Mixed caregivers and women's caregivers groups; drop-in groups for HIV+ and PWA, more. Info, intake interviews: 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline provides telephone emotional support and crisis counseling. Volunteers needed: training begins soon. 984-1902.

The Alternative Family Project: low-fee family counseling service available for lesbian, gay and bisexual families. Call 550-2621.

BAHAN (Bay Area HIV Advocacy Network) is a grassroots program of the SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alerts, govt lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. Info: Ryan Clark 864-5855 ext. 3032.

Baker Places provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

Bay Positives: Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. Info: 487-1616.

Bereavement Support Group for Partners of PWAs. Also: Coping with Multiple Loss Support Group. Sponsored by Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404 x 21680.

Boy + Boy: actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez. 575-1545 xBOY.

Break Out!, a networking group for gay/lesbian trainers and human resource professionals. Call Greg 431-5651 or Grace (510) 465-0341.

Coming out group for lesbians: Fri. mornings, 10:30-12, facilitated by Nathalie Paven, LCSW. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. 626-7000, x. 127.

Coming out support group for men meets Tues., 6pm at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome, no fee. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, PhD. Info: 626-7000.

Continuum HIV Day Services: an adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Call 241-5500.

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Deaf AIDS Center at UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

DNCB Support Group: Meets 2nd & 4th Mon. at 194 Church St., 7:15pm. Call 954-8896.

East Bay HIV/AIDS 12 Step Support Group: Ongoing. Open to all with HIV who have experience with any 12 step program. Mon. eves., 6:15pm. Info: Paul (510) 465-4311.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services: Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs. 572-9702.

FABRIC, a support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Gay Fathers Support Network of Santa Rosa meets first Sun. of every month, 7pm. Info: Mark (707) 523-6941.

Gay Men's STD/VIH Clinic: Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun., 5-7 pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7 pm. 2339 Duran Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit, a new gay young men's social group (18-35) with a focus on spirituality, meets every other Thurs., 7:30pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

Height-Ashbury Free Clinics' Drug Detox, Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program, counseling and HIV education, free. Hector, 565-1909.

Healing Alternatives Foundation maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Healing Circle: Begun as an HIV support group, now a space of healing & growth for all men & women. Meets every Thurs. at The San Francisco Center for Living, 4054 18th St. 7-9 pm. 252-1666.

Health Support Services for PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm. Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis "B" Testing and vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Duran Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5pm. (510) 644-0425.

HIV/AIDS Services at Operation Concern: Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV-men, men with AIDS/ARC, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St.

HIV Testing, Counseling and Education: free, anonymous, offered by Blow Buddies and the AIDS Health Project. Fri., Apr. 21, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co. 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Introduction to HIV Treatment Options, free, Wed., May 3, 7:30pm. Project Inform office, 1965 Market, Suite 220. 558-8669.

Iris Center: Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program (LYFE): Peer support and mentoring programs for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender youth. 565-7681.

transgender youth. 565-7681.

Legal Services for Children's H.O.P.E. Project: provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Lesbian/Bisexual Women's Rap Group: Open to women of all ages, drop in every Tues., 7pm, except first Tues. of each month. Spectrum, Center for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo. Info: Lea, 457-1115, ext. 201.

Lesbian Recovering Couples Anonymous: meets Sundays, 4:50pm, 1265 Sanchez St. Singles and couples welcome. Info:

Lineas de Ambiente: Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi latines regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center: Primary health care for women by women. Counseling, anonymous testing, prevention education, support groups for HIV+ women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC Youth Talkline seeks volunteers, especially people of color, transgender and people under 18. Call Anne or Olga, 703-6150.

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group offers ongoing support groups for the HIV community, partners, friends and family. No fees. Also: seeks volunteers in conjunction with HIV Services at St. Mary's. 863-1581.

National Association for Visually Handicapped helps people with partial eyesight by supplying visual aids, a free service for SF residents who are HIV+ and losing eyesight. Call for appt.: 221-3201.

Native American AIDS Project: Support, resources and advocacy for Native Americans/ Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

Pacific Center, the gay lesbian bisexual community center for the East Bay, seeks volunteer facilitators for HIV/AIDS support groups. Training provided. 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Call Richard, (510) 548-8283.

Pride & Prejudice: a welcoming group to queer youth meets every Tues., 6pm, at Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market St., Suite 201. Call Nicole at 565-7681.

Project Open Hand provides free home-delivered hot meals and free groceries to anyone with symptomatic HIV in San Francisco and Alameda Counties. Various ethnic and restricted diets available, plus free nutritional counseling. No waiting list. Call 1-800-551-MEAL.

Q Action: Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 621-7177.

Qi Gong for Health: \$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 5:30pm. 50 Oak St., 3rd fl. 255-0265.

Qi Gong for People with HIV: \$1 per class. Mon., Wed., 11am; Thurs. 6pm. American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Community Clinic, 450 Connecticut St. Info: 282-9603.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center Non-profit clinic provides affordable acupuncture & Chinese herbal therapies; treatment for people living with HIV, chronic hepatitis, PMS & other gynecological imbalances. Stop Smoking Clinic. Tues.-Fri., 1:30-6pm, Sat. 9 am-3 pm. 861-4964.

Radical Women: Business mtg, 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Richard M. Cohen Residence, SF's first assisted-living residence for people disabled by AIDS, needs volunteers (call 558-0503) and household donations (call Wayne April, 282-6209).

Stop AIDS Mtg. for men 50 & older: Sat., April 29, 4pm. Call 575-1545 ext. 253.

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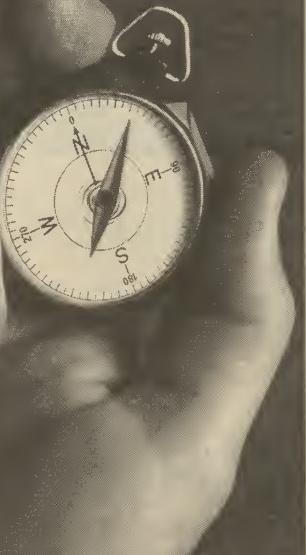
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By Kevin Thomas

PALM SPRINGS - It's an odd town in a 1960's time warp with retro-architecture, where women with beehive hairdos still can be seen and shoppers find thrift stores laden with American kitsch."

It's Palm Springs. Well, from the point of view of the Conde' Nast Traveler, a travel magazine. According to the 14-page spread in the September '94 issue, Palm Springs is "fast becoming the hippest destination on the map".

"It's hot... it's back, it's Palm Springs." "a substancial gay community thrives here." Return to Palm Springs for a trip back in time when the American Dream is alive and well. The shopkeepers along Palm Canyon Drive openly welcome us, Thursday night's Villagefest offers an opportunity to gather along Palm Canyon Drive for

a weekly street fair, offering some great people watching (cruising). The gay entertainment community has come together to offer you the best selection of activities for a hot desert night. If you haven't been to Palm Springs lately, it's new and exciting.

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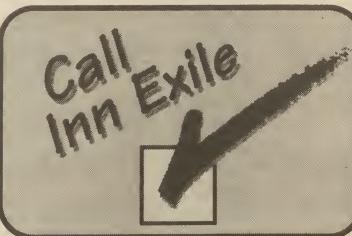
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On the Edge

by Michael C. Botkin

The thing it's easiest to forget about having AIDS is how fast the disease can develop, how swiftly it moves from a near dormant phase to fatal virulence. A month ago I defined myself a number of ways: a bicyclist, a person who cooks, a columnist. These were suddenly swept away. I haven't cycled in nearly a month, and it looks like it will be another before I can. I haven't cooked in as long a time, and have lost control of my kitchen and my fridge. I'm still writing my column, however.

The source of my current woes is a simple little fungus, the cryptococcus, which infected, among parts of my body, my brain (thus its full name: cryptococcal meningitis). In a couple of weeks, I went from being largely functional, not much different from "healthy" HIV negatives, to being on the edge of death. For about a week it wasn't at all clear to me that I would or could survive this episode.

In retrospect it was pretty easy to manage a case of crypto, which isn't to say getting over it has been easy. A mild case of crypto is survivable, as opposed to a severe case, which is likely to be fatal.

Treatment consists of a 21-day course of Amphotericin B. (What, we wonder, ever happened to Amphotericin A? Was it removed from the market as too toxic?) This anti-fungal is also known commonly as "Amphotericin B" or, more colloquially, as "shake and bake" from the shivers and fevers it can produce. Happily, I don't

seem too vulnerable to these common side effects, or perhaps I caught the infection before it went so far as to make these effects inevitable.

If you can't tolerate Amphotericin B, you're left with some decidedly inferior alternatives. You can take fluconazole, which inhibits the growth of the fungus without actually killing off what's already established, or you can try a new experimental form of liposomal Amphotericin, which doesn't appear to work as well as the established drug. Fortunately, I haven't had to resort to these alternatives, and as I write this, I have already completed 20 days of the primary treatment, with only one day to go.

Warnings unheeded

Looking back I can trace the development of my latest infection. Its onset wasn't exactly sudden, but it was well shielded from early intervention by my own tendency toward denial.

Two weeks before the indisputable outbreak, I got a couple of warnings. I was acting more sluggish and a touch spacey. The physician's assistant at Quan Yin, where I get my acupuncture, noticed that I'd suddenly dropped a couple pounds. She was perturbed by this but, as it was an isolated symptom, didn't take it any further, other than to note it and keep an eye on it for future reference.

My partner noticed my lack of energy and focus. I brushed off his concerns, because I dislike tracing down minor symptoms. I attributed my sluggishness to an unusual delay in getting my every-other-weekly testosterone

shot. But why, then, didn't I go in and get a booster shot? I had no good reasons, other than wanting to deny this growing welter of minor symptoms.

By the next week my symptoms were more distinct. The slowing down had become more noticeable, the fatigue more obvious. I put it down to getting too much sun (my plethora of

was difficult enough.

My doc ordered just about every test known to modern medicine: blood work, blood cultures, X-rays, sputum samples, you name it. The X-ray discovered, a little late in the game, that when I was bashed on Bernal Hill in December, my assailant had, in fact, broken my rib. I'd suspected as much at the time, but knowing it then might have gotten the charges worked up to a felony rather than a misdemeanor — but that's water under the bridge.

Meanwhile, my doc was consulting with colleagues and decided to biopsy an immensely swollen lymph gland on my neck. The procedure was done at an office at my doc's professional building by some terrified professionals — my partner is convinced that they were afraid I'd die on them or at least upchuck some nasty vomit in their well-appointed office.

I, alas, was too far gone to take much notice, let alone play up the effect. At this point I was hoping that either a treatment would be nominated quick or that I would die soon; the pain from the headaches and fever was so bad that I couldn't see enduring them indefinitely, or even very long.

That was Wednesday. On Thursday came word of my definitive diagnosis with cryptococcal meningitis, and I was admitted to the hospital that night to begin immediate treatment.

This was my first stay overnight in a hospital since I was five years old, my first ever connected with AIDS. I only spent three days there before being sent home to complete

treatment. But I wasn't prepared for the course of the disease. For one thing, it hadn't peaked yet, although I was already getting treatment for it, and symptoms continued to develop (like hiccups, one of the more distinguishing features of the illness) or to progress (like those damnable headaches).

And there were problems with the home health care agency hired by my HMO to administer my home infusions. This was Homedco, a company that's trying to get into home nursing despite a lack of expertise. I have yet to hear anything nice about them, and they almost killed me off by neglecting to provide me with bags of hydration as well as the Amphotericin B. We fired them after three days and switched to Visiting Nurses and Hospice, to our vast relief.

Now I'm mostly better. The headaches have stopped and the hiccups have dwindled to a few occasional burps that lack conviction. The disease seems to be having less effect on me than the treatment, which although it doesn't disable me completely, sure seems to put a hole in my day. I look forward to regaining my strength, though I know it will take a while. I can bear to look at my emaciated frame in the bathroom mirror, provided I don't smile (the effect, a grinning death's head, is just too gruesome).

But I have been given a potent reminder: I'm very close to the edge, and it wouldn't take much to knock me off. With AIDS, things can happen very fast, and it's very easy for a PWA to fall behind the curve by just a few days, or hours, and lose the game for good. ▼

Commentary

prophylactic drugs leaves me (rather photosensitive) and, still, my lack of testosterone (which, however, I still declined to go in and get taken care of). I was still cycling around town (albeit somewhat slower than I usually do) and even cycled home the Friday before I was hospitalized.

But my partner was thoroughly alarmed by this time and succeeded in getting me to take my temperature. It was 103.5, high enough to cut through my denial and signal the end of the pre-acute phase of my illness. Now I knew I was sick and that something had to be done. This was Friday (the last day I rode my bike), and I had a regularly scheduled doctor's appointment on Monday. Lying low, taking my daily limit of Advil to counter the fever and the headaches, which had just begun, I set myself to wait for the appointment and for diagnosis.

Behind the curve

By Monday I was wrapped up into a small ball of pain, willing to be led to doctors' appointments but nothing else. Cycling was out of the question; walking

Gays Get Rocky Treatment at Bullwinkle's

by Kent Brandley

A Palo Alto man who took friends and family to celebrate his nephew's fifth birthday says he was called a faggot by a homophobic waiter at Bullwinkle's Restaurant in Santa Clara Saturday, April 22 in front of five witnesses — including his startled young nephew.

Mark Nelson, 24, a lifelong resident of the Bay Area and a retail store manager, says it was the first time he ever encountered such blatant bigotry.

He said he was part of a jovial party of six when they entered the busy restaurant located at Lawrence Expressway and Homestead Road in Santa Clara at about 7:30 p.m. They waited to be seated as the restaurant was busy.

"We were cutting up and talking," as the group waited to be seated, Nelson said.

Then the waitress, whom he described as pleasant and outgoing, asked if he was gay.

"Yeah," he said. "Why?"

The waitress said some of the male waiters wondered "whether

those guys are gay or queer," and said none of them wanted to wait on that table.

Nelson said that one male waiter, named Paul, "kept coming by and kept calling us 'faggots.'" Another waiter went over to a busboy station, according to Nelson, and loudly said, "I don't want to get AIDS from some faggots."

Nelson said he was disturbed at being called "a fag in front of a five-year-old."

Nelson, who was embarrassed and humiliated, said he spoke to the manager of the restaurant, who allegedly said, "There is nothing we can do about it," and added, "I hope you will give Bullwinkle's another chance."

Nelson has since spoken to attorneys, who have advised him it was unlawful for a business to subject a customer to such harassment.

An employee of Bullwinkle's told the B.A.R. the restaurant manager was too busy to come to the phone to make a comment on the matter. No response to a detailed message had been received at press time. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTIONICIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 194506

The following person(s) are doing business as ON THE GO MOVERS, 1712 Sundance Street, San Francisco, CA 94134. BRENDA STRINGER, 103 Blythdale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by individual. Signed BRENDA STRINGER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 31, 1995.

April 6, 13, 20, 27, 1995

FICTIONICIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 194545

The following person(s) are doing business as POSTAL ANNEX + 179, 3701 Geary Blvd., Suite 101, San Francisco, CA 94116; GERALD C. BEHREND, 312 Warren Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131-1034. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by individual. Signed GERALD C. BEHREND. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 31, 1995.

April 6, 13, 20, 27, 1995

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTIONICIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO. 188335

The following persons have abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as ON THE GO MOVING COMPANY, at 1704 Sunnyside Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on July 20, 1994.

Name and address of registrants: 1)JOSEPH HOLMES, 103 Blythdale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134; 2)BRENDA STRINGER, 213 Blythdale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134; 3)ROBERT A. LAWRENCE, 213 Blythdale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134; 4)ROMANICA GRAYSON, 65 Blythdale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134; 5)KENYA EDDIE GATO, 1722 Sunnyside Avenue, CA 94134; 6)ANTHONY HODGES, 1729 Sunnyside Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134; 7)ELIZABETH VAOVASA, 1800 Sunnyside Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. This business was conducted by co-partners. Signed ROBERT A. LAWRENCE. This statement was filed with County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date March 31, 1995 Bruce H. Jamison, County Clerk-Recorder, by Joanne Huynh

April 6, 13, 20, 27, 1995

FICTIONICIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 194620

The following person(s) are doing business as HUAN SHENG FURNITURE & HARDWARE COMPANY, 38 Grafton Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116; ZHEN SHENG LI, 38 Grafton Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 4, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed ZHEN SHENG LI. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 4, 1995.

April 13, 20, 27, 1995 May 4, 1995

FICTIONICIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 194611

The following person(s) are doing business as GOLDEN GATE HEARING SERVICES, 1400 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109; LAWRENCE M. ENG, 1919 Octavia Street #109, San Francisco, CA 94109 and JEREMY E. DAVIS, 1919 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 1, 1990. This business is conducted by general partnership. Signed LAWRENCE M. ENG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 4, 1995.

April 13, 20, 27, 1995 May 4, 1995

FICTIONICIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 194612

The following person(s) are doing business as CKSF, 759 Oak Street, San Francisco, CA 94117; NICOLA GOGAN, 759 Oak Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 3, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed NICOLA GOGAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 4, 1995.

April 13, 20, 27, 1995 May 4, 1995

FICTIONICIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 194489

The following person(s) are doing business as BERNAL BOOKS, 401 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110; RACHEL PEPPER, 203 Odgen Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 30, 1995. This business is conducted by individual. Signed RACHEL PEPPER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 30, 1995.

April 13, 20, 27, 1995 May 4, 1995

FICTIONICIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 194902

The following person(s) are doing business as LUMBERLAND INTERNATIONAL, 2590 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124; VICTOR CHING, 389 Valencia Drive, So. San Francisco, CA 94080. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed VICTOR CHING. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 14, 1995.

April 20, 27, 1995 May 4, 11, 18, 1995

April 20, 27, 1995 May 4, 11, 18, 1995

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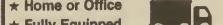
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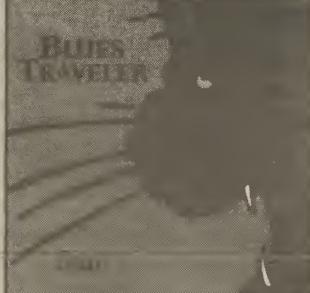
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

PEOPLE AND PERSONALS

VOL. XXV NO. 17 April 27, 1995

Anne Bogart's 'The Medium' Explores McLuhan's Message of Change

Getting to the Meat of the Matter



Anne Bogart

by Chad Jones

Controversial and in demand, lesbian director Anne Bogart is bringing her bold brand of contemporary theater to San Francisco this week in the form of *The Medium*, a performance work based on the writings of '60s media visionary Marshall McLuhan.

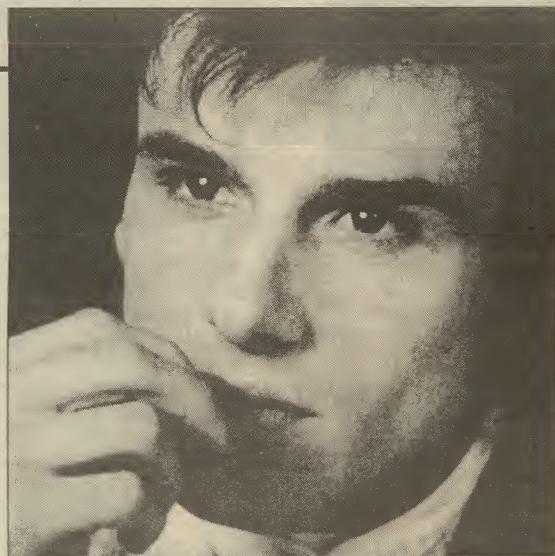
Some would call Bogart's work avant garde, or even alienating, but Bogart insists her work is not the kind of self-indulgent performance art that leaves patrons either congratulating themselves for their ability to decipher complex artistic statements or wondering what the hell it all meant anyway.

During a recent phone interview from her office at New York's Columbia University, where she heads the directing program, Bogart shed light on her brand of theater, one in which strict narrative structures are replaced by provocative explorations of text, sound and movement.

How does Bogart herself describe this ultra-modern approach to theater?

"I'm a traditionalist," she says. "I concentrate on theater history. I'm obsessed with Vaudeville, the American musical and silent film acting. I'm steeped in traditional theater because I want to use these traditions and think about what they mean today. Connecting with the past is what theater is all about."

Continued on page 36



Stefan Dionisi

'Farinelli': Style, No Substance

Looks Aren't Everything

by Paul Thomason

Opera is an exotic and irrational entertainment which has always been combated and always has prevailed," wrote Samuel Johnson in 1779. In all of opera's colorful history, there is certainly nothing to top the exotic and irrational practice of cutting off little boys' testicles to preserve their pure childish voices, in the hope they would grow up to become great singers.

Yet the castrati (as the resultant adult male singers were known) ruled Italian opera in the 17th and 18th centuries. They were the first great international superstars, traveling throughout Europe, commanding

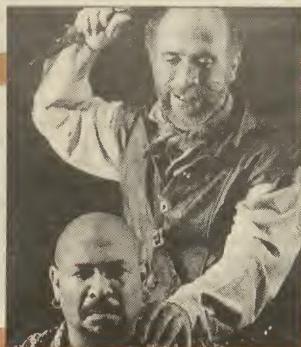
enormous fees and enjoying unparalleled adulation. Judging from contemporary accounts of their singing, plus the music written specifically for them, the castrati's vocal feats have not been equaled since.

Quite possibly the greatest castrato – and therefore possibly the greatest singer of all time – was Carlo Broschi, better known as Farinelli (1705-1782). Belgian filmmaker Gerard Corbiau's costume drama, *Farinelli*, which opens tomorrow at Bay Area cinemas, is itself both exotic and irrational. Unfortunately, this highly fictional account of a few years of the singer's life is also dull and bad.

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on 'Othello'
and 'Play
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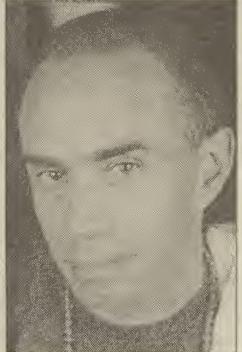
by Clark Kent and Connie Casserole

Have you been feeling stressed out lately? In need of a little bit of TLC and nurturing? Want to get really in touch with your inner child? One of our favorite things for stress reduction and reverting to feeling like a five-year-old is the SF Public Library's free recorded Dial-A-Story service. Take a few minutes out of your day today and let someone tell you a story. Call 626-6516 right now.

Speaking of Stories: One of the great cinematic tales of history has been added to the SF International Film Festival as a last-minute bonus. As part of their tribute to screenwriter Suso Cecchi D'Amico, the festival has unearthed a print of Luchino Visconti's 1972 epic, *Ludwig*. The rarely seen, 264-minute biopic had a special revival screening earlier this month at the Turin Gay and Lesbian Film



Marga Gomez



Brian Freeman



Holly Hughes

Festival. On its Italian release Visconti said of the film, "To me, *Ludwig* truly represented an outburst of soul and mind, it says only the things I wanted to say and which belong to the image of *Louis II*." The film plays the Kabuki on Tuesday, May 2, at 1 p.m. Be there; you may never have another chance.

Nother Cinema News: A theatre in Union Township, New Jersey, was evacuated on Good Friday after a bomb threat over their screening of the controversial film *Priest*. Look for the Roxie's May 5-11 U.S. theatrical premiere of Marlon Riggs' final film, the feature-length investigation of African-American identity politics, *Black Is... Black Ain't* (with additional special screenings of two other Riggs documentaries: *Color Adjustment* and *Tongues Untied*).

Do You Remember the Fist-Fucking Scene?: And we'll be first in line at the Roxie's upcoming rerelease of William Friedkin's 1980 gay leather serial killer psychodrama, *Cruising*. Toronto fag filmmaker Bruce LaBruce once described the film as, "Another 'end of an era' movie. *Cruising* is all about Seventies pre-AIDS disco burnout, and today it looks just as much like a homosexual period piece as *Boys in the Band*. (In fact you might even call it a costume epic.) The best part about *Cruising* is that it makes the gay subculture seem totally impenetrable — all those secret signals and furtive signs, all those slow tracking shots that keep you at a safe yet voyeuristic distance from the action...including a fist-fucking scene in a Hollywood movie. Now that's entertainment!"

Finally, film buffs will want to show up at the Center for the Arts Thursday, May 4 (7:30 p.m.), for an evening of new films and videos by Alyce Wittenstein and George Kuchar presented by the San Francisco Cinematheque. A pioneer of NYC's "cinema of transgression" movement, Wittenstein will show a special sneak preview of her new film, *The Deflowering*, in which the mutation of the AIDS virus leads to an all-out war against nature as special "defoliators" attempt to rid the earth of the virus. A genetic engineer proposes a solution, but will greedy corporations balk at the necessary sacrifices? Also showing are three new short comedies by George Kuchar, *The Gifted Goon*, *Nirvana in Black*, featuring Mark Finch. For info, call the

Cinemateque at 558-8129.

What Does Gender Mean to You?: Two weeks ago in *Out There*, we reported on the behind-the-scenes action at last month's United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meeting. We got International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission's staffer Rachel Rosenblum's name wrong (sorry, Rachel), and this week we've got one more interesting item from that epic processing session. In a debate over the meaning of the word "gender," some participating countries expressed suspicion that proponents for the term had a hidden agenda behind its use, namely, tolerance of non-heterosexual identities and orientation.

In a mind-boggling example of the lengths to which collective decision-making processes can go, a special contact group will meet between May 15 and June 15 (a full month) to determine a common understanding of the word "gender."

Hot Property of the Year: San Francisco's favorite Latina lesbian comic, Marga Gomez, is the best reason we can think of to check out this summer's release of *Batman Forever* (we wish she were playing Catwoman, but we're sure she'll be brilliant in her small role as a reporter). We're still reeling from her gruff and sexy impression of Ricky Ricardo in this year's Lesbian & Gay Film Festival trailer (drag queen Lulu co-stars in the David Weissman directed spoof of *I Love Lucy*). And as if Marga weren't busy enough with her other writing projects (look for her in Anchor Books' *Out, Loud & Laughing* and in the forthcoming Routledge anthology, *Plays by American Women of Color*), Marga's new play, *A Line Around the Block*, will open off-Broadway sometime in the coming year.

Pop News: More and more we seem to rely on the *SF Bay Guardian*, MTV, ESPN Sportscenter and an occasional glance at the front page of the *Chronicle* for our knowledge of current events. If you're looking for some amusement, or for a chance at a new form of political activism, we suggest you give a call to MTV's new phone line for news. *MTV Unfiltered* is supposedly a new program of news direct from viewers, and god knows there's enough queers tuned in waiting for a glimpse of Michael Stipe or Melissa Etheridge. The number to call is (800) 296-2445. If you can't think of anything newsworthy, make something up.

Pop Culture: It seems ages since it began taking form on the corner, and now every queer in town is anxiously awaiting the biggest event of June 1995 — the opening of the Virgin Megastore on Market St. It's supposed to have the largest selection of CDs, cassettes, singles, videos, laser discs, multimedia and specialty books in the U.S. But will they carry *Pansy Division*'s next release?

Great Art With Great Titles: The New York-based non-profit, Printed Matter Bookstore, has just released their new catalog. They carry more than 6500 titles, and (big surprise) a lot of them are queer. Choose from a special edition triptych by Andre Serrano (remember *Piss Christ*) entitled *Ejaculate in Trajectory*; an international AIDS mail art exhibition from the former Yugoslavia (in Serbo-Croatian and English), *SIDA & RAJAIDS* by Andrej Tisma; or perhaps a 1989 Giomo Poetry Systems tape called *Like a Girl, I Want You to Keep Coming*, featuring readings by William S. Burroughs, Henry Rollins and others. For a catalog contact Printed Matter Bookstore at Dia, 77 Wooster St., New York, NY 10012.

Latina Lesbo Lust: Tomorrow night (Friday, April 28), we're heading for Santa Cruz and the Fourth Annual Women of Color Film and Video Festival. The festival opens at 6:30 p.m. with two fantastic Latina lesbian films: *Desi's Looking for a New Girl* and *Carmelita Tropicana*. The equally fantastic directors, Mary Guzman and Ela Troyano, will be there as well. The weekend festival continues all day Saturday (with a majority of films and videos by lesbians). For more complete schedule information, call (408) 426-5632.

Hot Tickets: Pomo Afro Homo Brian Freeman will stage his new play about African-American civil rights activist Bayard Rustin (who happened to be gay) at Thick Description performance space this season. Lesbo alternative rockers Veruca Salt headline, with backup from The Muffs and Fidgish at the Fillmore on Tuesday, May 2 (Veruca's Buzz Clip video for "The Seether" featured one of this year's finest girl-girl smooches). And speaking of Muffs (and cheap sex dates), it sounds like the club with the smuttiest reputation in town, Muffdive, is maintaining its status (our sources are spotting lots of action in the back room of the new CW Saloon location on Saturday nights).

Continued on page 35

CABARET

Connie, Carroll and the Coconut Groovin' At the Grove

by Robert Julian

Connie Stevens was to the '60s what June Allyson was to the '40s: an all-American girl icon. Pert, perky, blond and enthusiastic, they both assumed the role of non-threatening cutie-pie — the kind of girl you might get to second base with, but one who would never let you hit a home run without that band of gold on her finger.

Allyson now hawks adult diapers and Stevens holds court on the Home Shopping Network, promoting her own line of facial creams and lotions. Last week, after her opening night show at San Francisco's Coconut Grove, I asked Stevens if she was getting rich from her booming cosmetics sales. Her simple answer: "Yes."

If Stevens' "Forever Spring" beauty system is responsible for her continuing youthfulness, then it deserves success. Although she's in her mid-fifties, she looks a good decade younger.

Performing from the Coconut Grove stage, the singer/actress belted out a very Vegas evening of up-tempo pop standards. Opening with "Never Gonna Give You Up," Stevens' breathy contralto slammed home a rock 'n' roll medley, with the able assistance of two female backup singers. Near the end of the evening, the Mary Poppins factor subsided substantially as Stevens finished with her version of Vanessa Williams' "The Sweetest Days," followed by the Gloria Estefan standard, "Anything for You."

The Achilles' heel of Stevens' act was her 15-piece orchestra. This superb group of musicians, with a large horn section, simply blew her away — literally. If a vocalist is going to be heard, the wonderful acoustics of this club and its small size would suggest a band half as large.

Offbeat humor

Yet Stevens managed to incorporate some unexpected and offbeat humor into her act with the song "When the Going Gets Tough." As she sang about starting over and getting your "second wind," Stevens tossed a variety of rejuvenating products into the audience. One woman got Sheer Energy pantyhose; a man got a bottle of Grecian Formula hair dye. But Stevens tossed ex-husband Eddie Fisher, who was seated near the stage, a tube of Poli-Grip denture cream, followed by a can of Stiff Stuff hair spray.

There may be a little bit more to this former *Hawaiian Eye* star than meets the eye (Stevens played Cricket Blake in that '60s TV series). After the show, when I asked her why she tossed Fisher the Poli-Grip, Stevens' effervescence fizzled a



Connie "Home Shoppin'" Stevens



Diahann Carroll: ready for that close-up (finally).

bit and she responded flatly, with a hint of sarcasm, "I thought it would be good for a laugh." With blond tresses flying above her beaded, black velvet pantsuit, Stevens stopped by Fisher's table at the end of the show.

Of course, all this sounds terribly clubby — who said what and who did what to whom, but that is precisely the point. At 1415 Van Ness, the real star of the evening is the club itself and the kind of behavior it inspires.

The owners of the Coconut Grove have created a space that is a period piece lifted from another era, and the ambience is an impressive accomplishment. It's a real nightclub, beautifully planned and executed with incredible attention to detail. The now dormant Venetian Room was elegant and tasteful, but the Coconut Grove is the first San Francisco supper club that justifies the adjectives swank, intimate and posh.

Open for both lunch and dinner, the distinctive interior space is fun and inviting. Faux palm trees are spaced around the heavily draped room, and the elevated stage overlooks a dance floor where patrons dance to live music provided by the house vocalist (Debbie Voltura) and a five-piece band before the headliner arrives. For those who only want to see the show, some of the best seats in the house are around the bar.

The level of the service is superb — attentive without being intrusive — and if this were anywhere other than San Francisco, the food would be considered excellent. Even by exacting local standards, the Coconut Grove menu offers interesting choices and the presentation is first-rate, but executive chefs Paul Irving and Jeffrey Inahara need to do some fine tuning.

The Rock Shrimp Artichoke Salad (\$9) had an undercooked artichoke heart with nicely seasoned shrimp complemented by tasty potato panes. The Fried Buttermilk Calamari appetizer (\$8.75) was perfectly seasoned and coated in a spicy batter, but

brown demi-glace need improvement.

The wine list contained an extensive selection of imported and domestic wine, by the bottle or glass, and the exceedingly smooth 1991 Freemark Merlot (\$7.50/glass) could not have been better. But one thing needs to be emphasized: thirsty customers should stick to bottled beverages. The club's tap water comes with the unmistakable taste of aging galvanized plumbing.

Extravagant proposition

For a special occasion, it's hard to imagine a performance venue more unique than the Coconut Grove. But for the consumer, the financial realities of a night spent drinking, dining and enjoying a live show represent a rather extravagant proposition.

A couple needs to be prepared to drop three bills for this kind of Grovein'. You can cut the price in half if you're willing to settle for just drinks, dancing and the show.

It's important to acknowledge here that these prices are not the result of greed and avarice on the part of the club owners. They have a tremendous financial investment with extraordinary overhead costs. Name entertainers, and the back-up musicians they require, come with large price tags.

In addition, recurring costs skyrocket with the number of employees required to maintain the club's current level of service. But the fact remains that, regardless of the cost, there is simply no other place in San Francisco where adults can have a dress-up evening, with headline entertainers in an intimate setting. The Coconut Grove is definitely ready for San Francisco, but it remains to be seen if San Francisco is ready for the Coconut Grove.

Next week (May 2-7) Diahann Carroll opens at the Grove, and this seasoned pro should be in rare form, preparing for the role of Norma Desmond. Carroll recently signed to star in the Canadian production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*. And on the evenings of May 5 and 6, the late show should jump with the Latin/salsa sounds of the Pete Escovedo Orchestra. Escovedo performs with his daughter Sheila E., the vocalist/percussionist who had a big hit in the '80s with "The Glamorous Life." This time around, E.'s venue will fit her to a T. ▼

■ For information about and reservations for the Coconut Grove, call (415) 776-1616.

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Out There

Continued from page 34

No Other Gossipy News: Longtime celebrity dyke couple Phranne and Holly Hughes are Splitsville. The studly Nick Katsapetses pre-

mieres his sexy new feature, *Get Over It*, at this year's SF Lesbian and Gay Film Fest in June. And Queer Human Rights advocate Julie Dorf is looking for someone to adopt her cat (call 255-8680 if you would like to own a sweet little five-year-old calico). ▼

INTERVIEW

Bogart

Continued from cover

Bogart, 43, began forming her approach to theater after she saw a production of *Macbeth* at age 15. "I didn't understand the language. I knew then that this is what I would do for the rest of my life. This production of *Macbeth* did not talk down to the audience. I understood then that theater is not just about understanding, but about tapping potential within us."

During stints at four undergrad

universities, Bogart studied performance sociology and the anthropology of theater before getting her degree from Bard College. She then pursued a Master's degree from New York University. Next, Bogart began working her unconventional views into the plays of Brecht, Chekov and Gorky. In 1989, she became the artistic director of the respected Trinity Repertory Company, but left amidst controversy.

It was during this period that Bogart directed her now infamous version of Rodgers and

Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, a production that so incensed the Hammerstein Estate that they shut it down. "We did not violate the contract," Bogart insists. "That contract didn't say we couldn't have multiple Nellie Fourbushes. We didn't cut any songs, and the contract did not say that Emile De Becque could not be played by a woman."

Inspired by Martha Graham

In *The Medium*, running at Theater Artaud, the director has focused her vivid imagination on the writings of Marshall McLuhan, the prophetic '60s philosopher who coined the term "global village," a reference to the expanding world of telecommunications, computer networks and television.

"*The Medium* asks important questions," Bogart says. "How are all these new technologies changing us as human beings? Are they causing us to change as a species, causing us to change the way we relate to each other? These are new questions not rooted in ancient questions, but they are important human questions."

The irony in Bogart's approach is that throughout her entire show, there is no visible technology, only five actors — the "human meat" as Bogart calls them. The most high-tech element is the sound design, which has been called the sixth actor in the show. *The Medium* demonstrates the intense training Bogart requires of her actors, whom she's taught using what she calls "the viewpoints," a physical vocabulary of techniques that allow wild spontaneity within the overall structure of the show.

"One way to think about my approach to acting," Bogart explains, "is to think about how Martha Graham would have approached acting. She explored psychological gesture in her choreography, and I think she was on to something."

"In the traditional American Stanislavski approach to acting,



Photo: Joan Marcus

The Saratoga International Theatre Institute performs *The Medium*.

you set the inside, the emotions, through rehearsals. What you leave free for performance is the body, but that's cheap. Emotions are the most beautiful things we have and shouldn't be set free, so I set the body and leave the emotions alone."

Unlike many of today's performance artists, Bogart says her audience is of the utmost importance, that the last thing in the world she wants to do is alienate it. "Audiences are getting more and more disenfranchised from theater as a regular activity," says Bogart. "To me the audience plays a big role in the performance because so much is left up to them. Directing is like leaving clues behind in a murder mystery. The audience has to put the pieces together. I don't care for theater that does all the work for you."

"My challenge is to organize the clues in a way that excites and titillates the audience and leaves the imagination to them. It's like listening to a great piece of music: it's structural but not narrative. You have to let yourself go and trust yourself as an audience member to pick up on the subtleties, to listen and to see — not just to search for story."

Erotically charged

As a woman and a lesbian working in a male-dominated field, Bogart says she has often

encountered resistance. "I wouldn't have been fired from Trinity Rep if I was a man. It's a problem, really. Women are conditioned to take up less space. To be seen and not heard. These are difficult habits to break. I still sit with my legs crossed not to take up much space. Men have no problem taking up space." As for being a lesbian, Bogart, who has been involved with director Tina Landau for the last eight years, says "it hasn't gotten in the way."

Sexuality is something Bogart is always concerned with in her work. "Sexual attraction is a large part of what brings people to theater," she explains. "I feel my rehearsals should be charged with eroticism, but not a consummation of that attraction. In a way, I have to fall in love with the people I work with. They are alive with potential erotic imagery, which is a wonderful, beautiful, stunning, gorgeous attraction."

Bogart says she hopes to produce some lesbian theater in the near future. "We've already passed through lesbian chic," she says. "But maybe I can usher it back in." ▼

■ *The Medium* continues at Theater Artaud through May 7. Call 621-7797 for information.

SF Ballet's 'Sleeping Beauty'

Sleeping Beauty is the most satisfying ballet of them all. It has such a powerful deep coherence, all its glittering improbable detail seems not only right but inevitable. Fairies skip and hop on the tips of their toes, like dragonflies lighting on running water. And though it is 100 years old, it could not be more relevant: it is a ballet about hope in the face of a blood disease. In 1890, the story of a princess who is fatally pricked by a spindle but is saved from death by a fairy godmother and her true love was a fable about hemophilia, the then-fatal disease which afflicted the imperial Russian family. Today it gives shape to our hopes of being delivered from the catastrophic blood disease of our time, AIDS. San Francisco Ballet dances *Sleeping Beauty* very well indeed. Performances run tonight through Sunday at the Opera House. Tickets are \$7-\$85. Call 865-2000 or 762-BASS for tickets. ▼



Photo: Marty Sohl

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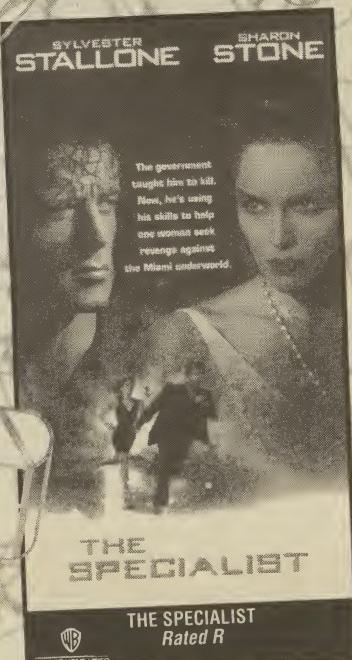
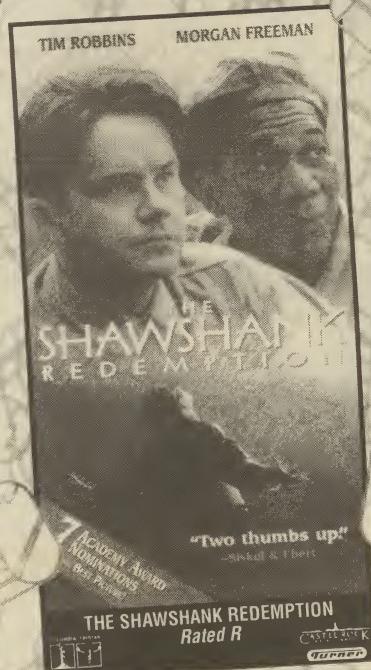
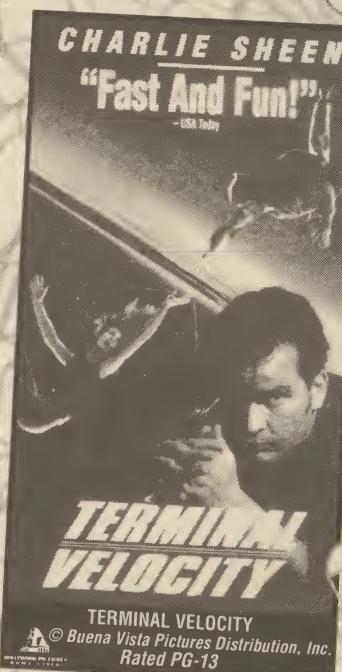
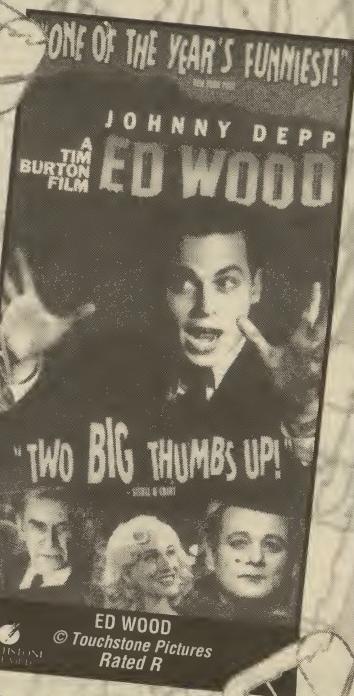
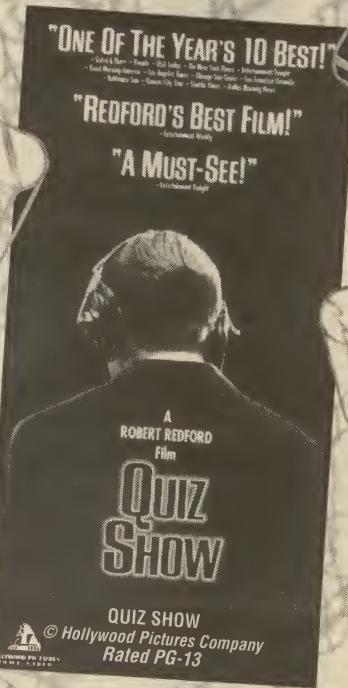
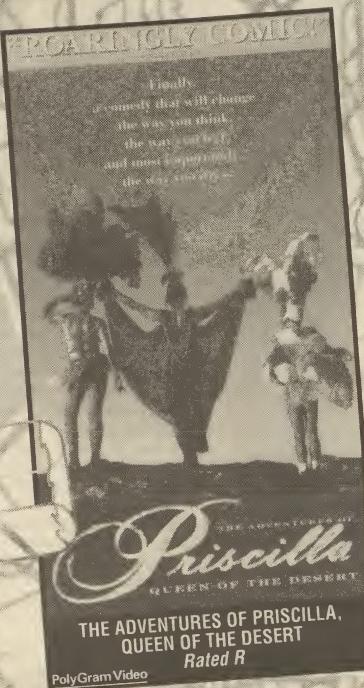
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BAY AREA REPORTER—April 27, 1995—PAGE 37

'Farinelli'

Continued from cover

Though today castrati are generally associated with opera, by far the greatest number were employed by the Roman Catholic Church. In I Corinthians Chapter 14, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted unto them to speak.... And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." The ecclesiastical powers that be decided that meant women were not to sing in church either, and as music grew too complicated for boy sopranos and altos, the castrati began to appear in church choirs. Though the church never officially approved the operation (indeed, it was punishable by death), Pope Clement VIII liked the sweetness and flexibility of the neutered male voices and hired two castrati in 1599 for the Sistine Chapel choir. Thus sanctioned by the highest authority in Christendom, everyone raced to add castrati to their own choirs — and opera houses.

Corbiau's film bounces back and forth over an almost 20-year period (during which, miraculously, no one ages) that follows Farinelli from a street contest with a trumpeter in Naples (which the singer wins) to his first meeting with the great composer Handel (Farinelli spits on him), through lots of brief scenes of

Farinelli alone on stage singing, to his "self-imposed exile" at the Court of King Philip V of Spain. Along the way Farinelli and his brother bed numerous women (the singer entices them, then his brother "takes over and plants the seed").

Ennui to the max

In the film (screenplay by Corbiau and his wife), Farinelli starts out a happy and enthusiastic singer but soon becomes jaded. He also becomes increasingly effeminate, pouting, mincing and languidly posing both on stage and off as he drinks lots of wine and repeatedly asks for opium. But perhaps Farinelli is just as confused as the innocent viewer about what is going on in this turgid film.

Though the costumes and sets are spectacular, and Stefano Dionisi as Farinelli is easy on the eyes (especially when he smiles), as is his rougher-looking brother (Enrico Lo Verso), there is a disturbing lack of cohesiveness and drama to the movie. Perhaps part of the problem is the 1990s sensibility which runs throughout. In one scene Farinelli abruptly interrupts a dinner party to ask the hostess to marry him. She laughs, realizes he is upset with her laughter, and quickly apologizes. "It was a stupid defensive reflex."

Right. Just what any well-bred woman would say in 1734 London.

"Forgive me, Madam," Farinelli replies, "I often play God on stage so I had hoped to be a man."



Photo: Mardis Hack

Stefano Dionisi

And perhaps that is the main problem with the film: the Corbias' view of what it means to be a man. Farinelli is unable to find happiness in his art. Though the actresses on

whom he bounces up and down in the bedroom scenes writhe orgasmically, Farinelli remains miserable. Even the love of Alexandra, a (fictional) woman he meets in London and who follows him to Spain, is not enough to satisfy him.

It is only when his brother finally impregnates Alexandra that Farinelli finds peace. What a limiting — and false — view of genuine manhood, that a man is only truly fulfilled when he has gotten a woman pregnant (or, even more perversely, when his brother does it for him). No

wonder the movie doesn't hold together.

What really happened

Though a feature film is not a documentary, Corbiau might have had more success if he'd stuck more closely with history. One of the (numerous) loopholes in the plot concerns Farinelli's unexplained presence in the Spanish court. One minute he's in London telling Handel, "You were responsible for my first musical orgasm." Then he's in Spain singing for King Philip.

In reality, the singer was asked by Queen Elizabeth Farnese to sing for her husband in the hopes it would cure the king of his extreme melancholy. It worked, and Farinelli sang for the king every night for the next 10 years. (According to some reports, he sang the same four songs every night. If that is true, it's a wonder the singer himself didn't go mad.)

In the process, Farinelli became a favorite of the king, eventually wielding influence over the court of Spain in a manner comparable to that of Rasputin over the last of the Russian tsars. Unlike the mad monk, however, Farinelli used his power for good, and when Ferdinand VI became king in 1746, Farinelli's influence even increased.

What a shame this politically savvy, astonishingly gifted, brilliant performer will be known to most people only as the childishly dull, not very good singer of Corbiau's *Farinelli*. ▼

■ ***Farinelli* opens April 28 at selected Bay Area theaters. In SF at the Clay Theatre (415) 346-1123, in Berkeley at the Act Cinema (510) 548-7200, in Mill Valley at the Sequoia Twin (415) 388-4862, in Palo Alto at the Palo Alto Square (415) 493-1160 and in San Jose at the Camera Cinemas (408) 998-3300.**

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'Farinelli' on Disc

The biggest problem faced by Gerard Corbiau in making a film about a castrato was what to do about the voice. The last castrato, Alessandro Moreschi, died in 1922, and though there is a CD of recordings he made in 1902 and 1904 as a member of the Vatican Choir (available on Pearl Opal CD No. 9823), Moreschi was not a great singer and, from all accounts, not even at his best in recordings.

For the purposes of *Farinelli*, it was decided to artificially create a voice that would be neither male nor female by using a computer to digitally "morph" into one the voices of countertenor Derek Lee Ragin and soprano Ewa Mallas-Godlewski as they sang the same arias under the direction of Christophe Rousset. The soundtrack, *Farinelli, Il Castrato*, distributed by Harmonia Mundi (Travelling No. K1005), is a sometimes interesting stunt rather than a valid musical experience.

"Morphing" does, indeed, produce a unique-sounding voice that is occasionally flexible, though trills are sometimes a hit-and-miss proposition and the coloratura is often uneven and, at times, downright inadequate. This process also effectively destroys any musicality or artistry in the singing.

Imagine the result if two actors, say Dustin Hoffman and Glenn Close, both performed a Shakespearean monologue, then their performances were "morphed" into one. We would get sexless sounding words, but no emotion, no drama, no "acting."

The soundtrack offers rare works by Farinelli's brother, Riccardo Broschi, and teacher, Nicola Porpora (who, historically, seems to have preferred Farinelli's great rival, Caffarelli, to his own pupil), as well as others — always interesting to hear — plus more familiar arias by Handel. The most musically satisfying vocal work is the wonderful ornamentation in Handel's "Laschia ch'io pianga" from *Rinaldo*, though, ironically, this is not an aria Farinelli would have sung in the opera, since it was written for the female soprano role Almirena, not the castrato lead, Rinaldo. ▼

-Paul Thomason

Corbiau's Unusual Castrato

by Brandon Judell

Castration is in these days — and not just in *Drummer* ads. Filmdom is doing away with balls at every turn. In *Red Firecracker*, *Green Firecracker*, the hero's crotch is destroyed by pyrotechnics. In *Naked Killer*, the lesbian assassins wind up with enough severed members to open a sausage factory. And in the short film *An Evil Town*, based upon the Charles Bukowski tale, a religious fanatic slices up a hotel clerk who has a crush on him. The penis is flushed down the toilet.

What these films lack is great music. Coming along just in time to fill that void is the bio-pic *Farinelli*, this year's Golden Globe winner for best foreign film. Directed by Gerard Corbiau, it depicts the life of Carlo Broschi, who was castrated in his youth at the order of his older brother, a mediocre but ambitious composer who saw in his younger brother a ticket to fame and fortune. Carlo Broschi later changed his name to Farinelli and became one of the greatest singers of all time.

Needless to say, a dark shadow was cast over the brothers' relationship as a result of the castration. But both are united by a powerful sexual curiosity. In the film, as Farinelli's fame grows, women throw themselves at him. When he would take them to bed — which was frequently — Farinelli would do as much as was physically possible to please them. Then, at the proper moment, Riccardo was called upon to complete the task.

Finding an actor to play such a part was a challenge for Corbiau, who worked for three years on the script for *Farinelli*. Doubtless, he was thankful when he came upon handsome Italian actor Stefano Dionisi.

"There was a softness and sweetness of his face. A kind of femininity," Corbiau said in a recent interview in New York at which Dionisi was present. "But you must know, of course, that once deprived, the castrati developed in ways completely different from other men. For example, they're often extremely tall. Stefano is already a tall man, but Farinelli was approximately five inches taller, in fact, well over six feet. Another thing that developed in the castrati were their arms, legs, and hands, which were all usually very, very long. Castrati also had long beautiful hair as well as the beginning of breasts."

Looking over across the room at Stefano, he added: "Another thing is that they didn't have any facial hair. They were beardless. Stefano had to shave twice a day just to keep up with his growth. As a matter of fact," Corbiau laughed, "we had to shave his whole body. Stefano was kind of hairy in the beginning, but was deprived of all this during the shooting."

Masculine = violent?

The Farinelli portrayed in the film is surprisingly masculine, considering his lack of testosterone. B.A.R. wondered if this lack of overt femininity was a ploy to make the film more

acceptable to mainstream audiences. Corbiau shrugged, "Well, it has to be considered that we are working with Stefano, and Stefano is as he is. Such as he is, he is a man in spite of whatever delicacy we might have created around him."

"But the idea that the castrato is always effeminate, withdrawn, someone who avoids violence, all of this is a cliché idea that we wanted to avoid. We wanted a character who is more masculine, who had a violent side. Fundamentally, this film tells the story of a man in search of his lost dignity as a man. That is the source of the violence he expresses. We constructed the character around that concept."

The extremely handsome Stefano, a veteran of 12 Italian movies and the recent TV series *Joseph*, on which he played the pharaoh opposite Ben Kingsley, sat with his recently shorn locks, smoking a cigarette and looking at Corbiau with extreme respect.

In between long drags on his long cigarette, Stefano replied that Farinelli's relationship with Riccardo was definitely homoerotic.

"Well, what I thought was that Farinelli was someone who was completely alone. Didn't have family. Anybody. So it was not a normal relationship. Riccardo was his father, his brother, his mother at the same time. The other actor, Enrico Lo Verso, and I knew we had to build something strange. It didn't matter if it looked homosexual, but it's very important that we had a very special friendship. To build something strange."

As for having any weird dreams during the three months of shooting, Stefano shook his head and muttered, "Only had nightmares. The singing was a nightmare." As for visions of being castrated, he recalled, "During the nightmares, I would love doing it to Farinelli." Analyze that one. ▶



Photo: Merdis Hack

Brotherly love: Stefano Dionisi and Enrico Lo Verso.

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THEATRE



Photo: Ken Friedman

Tony Amendola and Steven Anthony Jones in A.C.T.'s *Othello*.



Photo: Janet Shapp

Alien McKelvey and Amy Mordecai in the commendable *Play Desdemona*.

'Othello' and 'Play Desdemona'

Beating the Bard

by Chad Jones

Oh, if only American Conservatory Theater's new production of *Othello* had remained but a glimmer in someone's eye. But then the idea of linking Shakespeare's murderously doomed interracial love story with a similar, albeit more tawdry, love story being played out in tabloids and over the airwaves is commercially juicy. Thankfully, though, this A.C.T. production, under the surprisingly wobbly direction of Richard Seyd, makes no attempt to link Shakespeare with current headlines beyond any inferences audiences wish to make on their own.

Sensational and bloody, *Othello* is pulpy fiction indeed. Jealousy in all its monstrous forms leads to murder, mayhem and lots of mournful wailing. Orchestrated almost entirely by Othello's evil steward Iago, the tale is a robust exploration of human weakness in the face of suspicion, stupidity and overwhelming ego. All of these issues speak directly to the lives we continue to lead today, so, ostensibly, *Othello* still has something to offer, even to a media-saturated '90s audience. This production, however, fails to connect with its modern audience and comes off as exactly the kind of Shakespearean production that turns people away from the Bard and toward the seemingly more vital delights of a Quentin Tarantino film.

The usually reliable Seyd has crafted an obtuse, claustrophobic production that never establishes a pulse or a rhythm. In last season's *Oleanna* and this season's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Seyd demonstrated such a sure hand and a deft touch. But here, his moments of lucid, interesting staging are overwhelmed by too many muddy, pretentious interpretations.

In one nicely staged scene, Iago begins planting the seeds of Othello's jealousy while giving the moor his bath. Stripped and vulnerable, the powerful Othello succumbs to Iago's ministrations in every way. While Iago shaves his master's bald head with a straight razor, Othello is literally a prisoner of Iago's words. The scene stands out because Seyd has brought a visceral, immediately accessible underscoring to the drama. Just when Seyd appears to be taking control of his material, along comes a scene in which Othello's internal turmoil is demonstrated in a painfully external way: as the moor rages through his jealousy, Seyd makes him stand center stage nearly surrounded by mirrors. When Othello's angst can grow no greater, darkness falls and the sound of the shattered mirror rings through the theater.

No revelations from Jones

At the center of this muddle is Steven Anthony Jones as Othello. Lacking a commanding stage presence, Jones merely indicates the moor's tribulations through lots of hollow yelling. With each monologue, Jones seems to watch Othello slipping further and further from his grasp. Tony

Amendola's Iago is more successful, but for every cogent evil thought that hits its mark comes a garbled misfire, a victim of Amendola's uneven delivery. The unquestionable and unexplainable evil of Iago is fascinating, but without a strong Othello to play off of, the effort seems unnecessary.

Maura Vincent's Desdemona-the-doomed is a bright spot in this dark, dark (thanks to Peter Maradudin's valiant attempt to almost light the stage) production. Compared to the Shakespearean posturing going on around her, Vincent seems to be an ultra-contemporary Desdemona of the mall, but her energy and strength are assets to these dismal goings-on. Though victims of Seyd's directorial confusion, Dan Hiatt as Roderigo, Domenique Lozano as Emilia and Remi Sandri as Cassio all have good moments.

The ultimate test of a good *Othello* comes in the last third of the play when the plot really gets going and people start dropping like flies. Even a bad production can fall into the dramatic rush to the bloody finish line. But this production never comes close to that rush. At three and a half hours, you wish someone would, as Shakespeare so delicately writes, "put out the light, then put out the light" on this tired production.

Counterpoint to 'Othello'

Far more interesting is the 450 Geary Studio theatre production of *Play Desdemona*, a new play by Daniel Hintzsche in which a great Shakespearean actor – he originated many of the Bard's great female roles before women were allowed on stage – attempts to teach the finer points of acting Shakespeare's women to his female pupil. The result is a clever, engaging play that adds an intriguing dimension to the *Othello* experience.

This is not to say that *Play Desdemona* is perfect. Too long by a good 45 minutes and overly ambitious, Hintzsche's play is at its best when dealing with actor Ben Trask's expertise and his pupil Jane Gresham's strong-willed struggle to become a great Shakespearean actress.

The play is ripe with interesting takes on gender roles and on the process of acting itself. Where it doesn't fully succeed is in its attempt to introduce psychodrama to characters living in London during the reign of Charles II. Granted, the play is quite contemporary in its language and attitudes, but for Hintzsche's construct to work, we must believe – to some degree anyway – that the characters are products of their time. When the darkly forceful Trask tells his pupil to relax and call up a memory from her past to stir emotions she can then use in her acting, the bounds of believability are stretched awfully thin.

Director Pam McDaniel works wonders with her admirable cast. As the has-been actor, Allen McKelvey acts the part of a great actor with tremendous gusto and credibility. When, towards the end, he and his pupil trade roles in their rehearsals, McKelvey delivers a knockout perfor-

Continued on page 44

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Pianist Krystian Zimerman A Little More Blood Please

by Chris Culwell

Lovers of classical keyboard music have no doubt observed that the first half of 1995 has been an uncommonly generous musical season for pianists. Shura Cherkassky, Yefim Bronfman, Louis Lortie, Garrick Ohlsson, Dubrovka Tomsic and Valery Kuleshov are just a few of the musical celebrities who have graced local stages since January, proving that the keyboard and its traditions, despite postmodern babbling about obsolescence, still count for something.

In the case of Cherkassky, the legendary 84-year-old pianist who performed at Davies Hall last February, tradition was surprisingly untraditional. His account of several "staples" of the Romantic keyboard literature, a guaranteed snoozefest in lesser hands, revealed startling insights into familiar music. Robert Schumann's majestic Fantasy (Opus 17) has rarely sounded so colorful, pliant and alive. Cherkassky drew from the score phrases we've never heard before and achieved a wonderful singing quality through his pedaling that added unusual depth and drama to

Schumann's great work. This was deep playing, energetic, heartfelt, whimsical, free-wheeling where necessary, yet, despite some wrong notes and wayward tempos, remarkably coherent for all its inventiveness.

What's interesting is that Cherkassky proved that he could love Schumann's music enough to crawl inside of it, call it a home if you will, yet not mar its essence. This delicate balance of knowledge, technical prowess, and genuine musical insight is precisely what the art of the pianist is all about. And it was precisely the absence of this human element, call it personality, charisma, what have you, that made last week's San Francisco debut of Polish pianist Krystian Zimerman at Davies Symphony Hall somewhat puzzling.

Half Cherkassky's age, Zimerman, whose legendary technique and versatility have already propelled him into Cherkassky's league, gave only half the recital of his much older colleague, despite his relative youth. Too often Zimerman seemed unable to connect with his material, choosing instead to hide behind conventional ideas of structure. In other instances he would needlessly rush phrases as if

they were going to somehow evaporate if he didn't nail them down first. The result was a neurotic blend of insightful and self-conscious playing. Sadly, the good stretches were outnumbered by others of less demonstrative character.

The program itself was an excellent mix and reflects the pianist's good taste. He began with Book I of Claude Debussy's miraculous *Images*, then essayed Anton Webern's enigmatic Variations for Piano (Opus 27). J.S. Bach's Partita No. 2 in C Minor and the Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor (Zimerman's own transcription) followed. The final offering was Chopin's overexposed Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Opus 35. (A critic sitting nearby was heard grousing that another pianist had covered this territory only weeks before.)

For these ears, the Debussy and Webern selections were the only works on the program that fully engaged Zimerman's imagination and supplied concrete evidence of his much-hyped reputation.

Certainly any pianist who can make the serial hieroglyphs of Anton Webern sound compelling, beautiful even, is worthy of commendation. These sparsely-textured sketches, which depict a world of sounds



Photo: Sheila Chan

Krystian Zimerman: an ear for Debussy and Webern.

and psychological states, employ an unusual musical language shorn of conventional harmonics to convey their essence. For neophytes it can be off-putting to say the least, but Zimerman, who clearly admires these multifaceted gems, turned the Variations into a musical adventure of rich dimensions. His reading lacked nothing in fantasy, wit, terror and a feeling of suddenness crucial to this music. His attention to dynamics was acute. In a rare show of excess, Zimerman became nearly inaudible, casting a sense of implacable mystery over the proceedings. It was a bewitching effect that propelled me to the edge of my seat.

Book I of Debussy's *Images* elicited equally good results. "Reflets dans l'eau," one of the composer's most sensuous utterances, was leisurely paced and, for once, you could actually hear all the notes. "Hommage à Rameau" and the final sketch in this triptych, "Mouvement," cast the requisite spells, although toward the end of the latter an affected rhythm and overpedaling smudged the long line of the music.

Unfortunately, the sense of urgency and detail that informed the Debussy and Webern offerings fizzled when it came to Chopin's B-flat Minor Sonata (Opus 35). Perhaps this music's more conventional structure (by comparison to Debussy and Webern) is too limiting for someone whose imagination is set free by fervid chromaticism and serial tone rows, but the sea change was made abundantly clear by the lack of drama in the opening movement, which Chopin marked "Grave" for a good reason. The absence of conviction in the scherzo and the routine playing of the fiery finale emphasized this reading's journey into the doldrums.

The famous Funeral March, which many of us would prefer

never to hear again thank you, was played with such heavy meter it couldn't possibly conjure the music's midnight soul. Visions of Waldteufel's elephant danced in my head.

The Bach selections were a refreshing idea in this season too ripe with Chopin and Prokofiev. Sadly, what Zimerman played didn't always work. The Partita No. 2 in C Minor had, at least for this listener, great moments, especially in the opening Sinfonia. But on the whole Zimerman's approach seemed somewhat wrongheaded. A luxuriant tone throughout suggested a Romantic interpretation. Yet this is a suite of dances and requires more variation and contrast to convince. One got a sense that Zimerman appreciates Bach's complex contrapuntal structures, but that's not enough. There wasn't a sense of drama to this playing. Tempos remained disturbingly even.

It is true that the C Minor Partita was not composed by Bach for the concert grand. But Zimerman's homogenizing gloss owes less to esoteric questions of old vs. new instruments, it seems, than to personal taste. And though there are things to admire about Zimerman's Bach, his vision doesn't always delve far enough below the surface of the music.

The Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor was transcribed for piano (from organ) by Zimerman. This is a grand work, but doesn't seem particularly well suited to the piano. Long muddy unarticulated stretches did not endear me to this new-fangled packaging of a classic.

The SF Symphony's Great Performer Series sponsored this recital. Next in the series is Alfred Brendel, who will complete his acclaimed account of the late Beethoven sonatas that he began here last year. Call 864-6000 for tickets. ▼

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North Meets South

Gay Choruses Unite at Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles joined for a memorable evening of song and solidarity last Saturday at Davies Symphony Hall. It was a fairly sober event that managed, nevertheless, to pack an emotional punch.

The idea of presenting a concert favoring gay composers is long overdue, so we owe a debt of gratitude to the Artistic Directors of both choruses for their vision and support. Stan Hill of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC) said he and his southern counterpart, Jon Bailey, dislike "AIDS songs," but recognize their responsibility in singing about pain as well as pride. As Hill poignantly observed, "If we don't tell our story, who will?"

Perhaps no other organizations have a better right to represent gay society. Firmly established and truly diverse, both groups serve as goodwill ambassadors and positive artistic outlets. The growing repertoire of works commissioned by gay choruses, however, may be just as varied, but is also more variable in quality.

The combined choruses began the show with a suitably rousing *Gloria* by Randal Bass, cleverly utilizing the magnificent Ruffati organ of Davies Hall. Matthew Dirst's contribution at the console helped justify the inclusion of this somewhat mediocre piece. Still, while other composers have done it better, Bass certainly provided the requisite excitement for an opening number.

The remainder of the first half was given over to the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles for its brief but delightful program, one that also provided the evening's only flashes of humor.

Several of the LA chorus' commissioned numbers show writers of real promise. *Prime*, music by Ron Nelson and lyrics by Thomas Ahlburn, was composed for the Eastern European tour of 1992; *Shame*, by Roger Bourland and John Hall, commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. Both songs are notable for their success in wedging meaningful words with expertly crafted music. Especially moving was *All There Is, Is Love*, which features, in addition to Bourland's music, the late Paul Monette's superior poetry.

A cute romp through some numbers from the world of opera rounded off the Angelino's performance, bringing hearty laughs and the observation, "They (the homosexually impaired) have football, we have opera!"

Originally commissioned by the estimable Turtle Creek Chorale of Texas, Kristopher Jon Anthony's and Peter McWilliams' "Cycle of Songs For Survival," *When We No Longer Touch*, served as Dr. Stan Hill's central presentation. The impressive cantata has received repeated and deserved performances by the LA Chorus as well.

Chronicling the passage

through stages of grief in the loss of a loved one, the score grows in power to a conclusion of considerable impact. Hill acknowledged the emotional difficulty of performing such a work, and the capacity audience could attest to a deeply moving rendition.

There are several moments of unbearable poignancy, as well as anger and despair — the catharsis brought by the closing songs *I Shall Miss Loving You* and *I Have Loved* was both necessary and real.

The Chorus sounded very good in the new acoustics of Davies Hall and their famous sense of ensemble served the piece well. Special praise must also be given to the small but expert accompanying orchestra — contractor Catherine Murtagh has done her job well.

For a finale, both choruses joined in an overwhelming

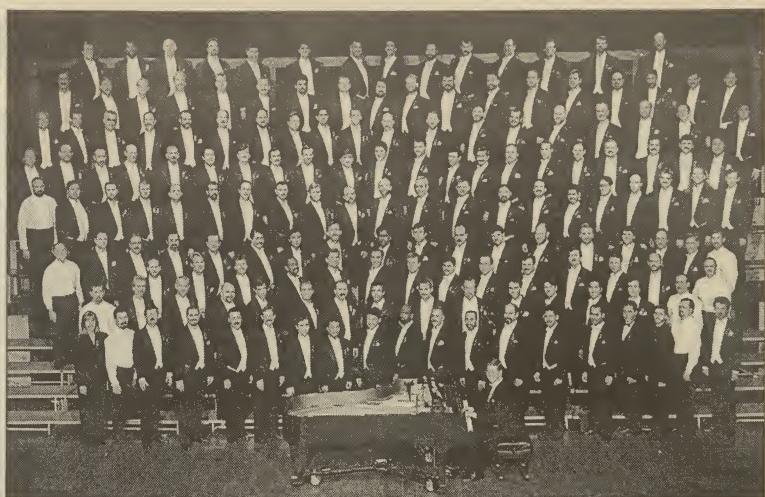


Photo: Herbert Solewyn

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus performed with the LA Gay Men's Chorus last week.

arrangement of *We Shall Overcome*. In the context of a generally serious concert it worked extremely well.

Stan Hill and his dedicated

performers should be commended for their obvious pursuit of musical excellence and artistic integrity. If *North and South* concentrated on somber issues,

it's not to worry, the SFGMC's next concert in July will be a camp journey through the '60s, *K-Gay-FM*. Now, that's diversity, god love 'em. ▼

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The World According to Jackie Collins

How Long Has This Been Going On?
by Ethan Mordden; Villard Books, \$25

by Robert Julian

It was such a wonderful idea - and so long overdue. Ethan Mordden's *How Long Has This Been Going On?* is being billed as the first epic gay novel (600 pages). Beginning with the embryonic post-war emergence of public gay life, the events of the novel cover almost 50 years of queer history, concluding with a 1991 gay parade in Manhattan. But in spite of Richard Aquan's beautiful cover design and a promising opening chapter, author Mordden fails to deliver the goods.

How Long Has This Been Going On? is not a gay *Hawaii or Shogun*. Mordden's pedestrian prose falls far short of James Michener and James Clavell. But more importantly, Mordden doesn't convey the necessary intellectual and emotional depth required to illuminate his subject matter. Jackie Collins is the writer whose style and tone is most comparable to what Mordden offers, and more's the pity. It's hard not to wonder what Gore Vidal or Tom Wolfe might have done with this subject.

Good start

The first, and most success-

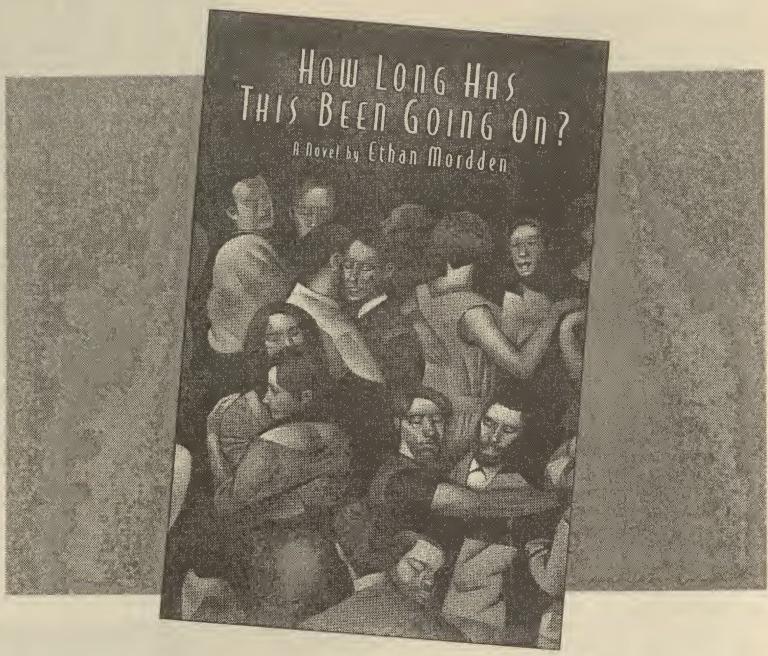
ful part of Mordden's novel takes place in Los Angeles in 1949. We're introduced to the world of Thriller Jill's, a Hollywood Boulevard queer bar where the patrons lead double lives; the lesbian bar owner pays off the police; and gay life is, well, furtive - to say the least. Hustlers and johns are the regular clientele and pay-for-play is the predominant mode of gay sexual congress. We meet Frank, a young vice cop who entraps queers in Griffith Park; Lois, the lesbian bar owner and her new girlfriend, Elaine; Larken, an upfront queer who is, consequently, unemployable; and Johnny the Kid, a cabaret performer who's on his way to being Somebody. These characters remain throughout the novel and their stories are interwoven with others in cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, Manhattan, and Minneapolis. Another primary set of central characters is not introduced until well into the second quarter of the novel.

Confusion would be a predictable result, but Mordden manages to juggle his expanding cast of players without inducing structural chaos. He even offers some amusing and occasionally trenchant observations in the form of one-liners like, "This was 1967, and there were no homosexuals in America except Liberace." The author also takes on significant themes like the burden of lead-

ing a double life, the lack of gay and lesbian role models, and the isolation of those who grow up in places where homosexuality dares not speak its name.

The life-long relationship between Luke and Tom, two

How Long Has This Been Going On?
A Novel by Ethan Mordden



Midwestern boys, also provides an opportunity for exploring those first, confusing stirrings of homosexual love between same-sex friends. Unfortunately, once Mordden has given us the set-up, he seems unable to fully explore the suggested themes.

Style disintegrates

One of the problems with the author's prose is his reliance on dialogue to carry the narrative. This technique keeps the story moving, but only at the level of soap opera. Important thematic explorations, which could evolve in the context of solid expository prose, never materialize. This problem is compounded by the work's narrow focus. Mordden's novel is not about the gay experience in post-war America; it is, rather, about the evolution of the gay bar milieu which Mordden populates with a predictable collection of hustlers, barkeeps, porn stars, drag queens, and rich daddies. Mordden hits only the low-lights of gay popular culture, with gratuitous references to Barbara Cook and momentary forays into The Pines and the Stonewall riots - all punctuated by juicy sex scenes whenever things get a bit slow.

As the novel progresses, the author's style seems to disintegrate. From the beginning, Mordden's black snap queen, Jezebel, speaks in a dialect that bears no resemblance to any-

thing that has ever occurred in nature. And as overlapping life stories begin to converge, the plot goes over the top and the writing hits bottom. The author reunites three soul-mates, after a 10-year absence, with the following descriptive dialogue: "Oh, Golly!" they all said, hugging and kissing." A minor character gets kidnapped by white supremacists in Daly City, and the father of a gay boy tries to murder a lesbian antique dealer in a small New Hampshire town.

The generally self-conscious tone of the novel reaches its apex when the narrator starts addressing the reader directly, commenting on the story. Near the end of the book, Mordden finishes off two important characters with a one-paragraph summation of what happened to them. Each of these truncated swan songs concludes with the inconceivable tag line: "And now he is out of the story."

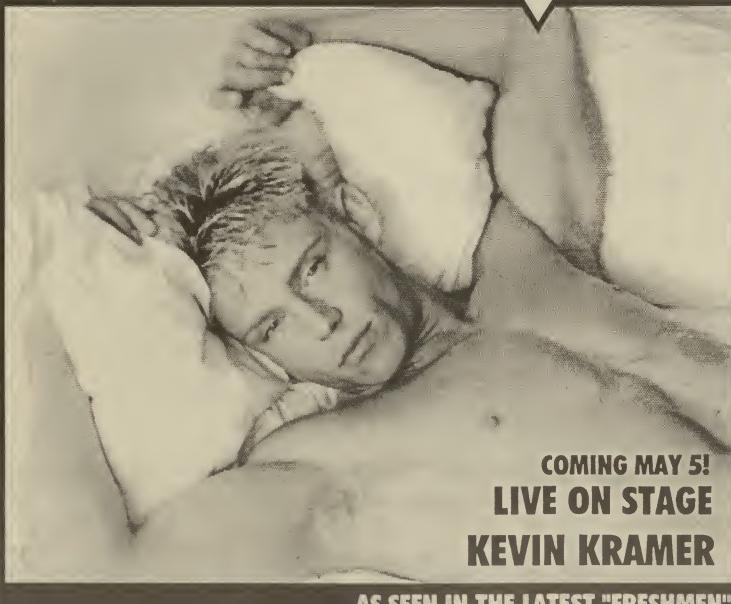
The real crime of Ethan Mordden's novel is that such a mediocre book should take so long to say so little, when there is so much that needs to be said about the subject matter. If you have a lot of spare time, or you just want some mind candy to take to the beach, then *How Long Has This Been Going On?* may be an acceptable option. But for those awaiting the great American gay novel, the clock is still ticking. ▼

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'Desdemona'

Continued from page 40

mance as Desdemona. As the struggling student, Amy Mordecai is radiant in her determination to overcome her flaws and deliver the performance she wants so desperately to give.

Though *Play Desdemona* is not directly about *Othello* or Shakespeare, the work does nod in that direction: even when interpreted broadly or made to fit someone else's drama, Shakespeare has the power to connect with a mod-

ern audience. With very few trappings, this little play delivers a heartfelt, recognizably human vision of Shakespeare - an accomplishment far beyond the bombast of the dirge-like A.C.T. production around the corner. ▼

■ *Othello* continues at the Stage Door Theatre through June 4. Call 749-2228 for information. *Play Desdemona* continues at the 450 Geary Studio Theatre through May 13. Call 673-1172 for information.

On Your Feet for FrontRunners Pride Run '95

On Saturday, June 17, the San Francisco FrontRunners will sponsor its annual run in Golden Gate Park, one of the highlights of the year in the Gay and Lesbian sporting community. The race coincides with Gay Pride Week and is held the day before the Parade in San Francisco.

As in year's past, Pride Run '95 will include a 5K/10K race and a 5K walk. After the race, everyone is invited to a post-race potluck picnic, which will unfold as part of the awards ceremony. At this time, other prizes will be awarded to participants through race number drawings.

The Family Link will be the recipient of this year's race proceeds. The Family Link is a non-profit community service organization that provides affordable accommodations in a

safe, supportive environment for families and loved ones visiting people in San Francisco with life-threatening illnesses, including AIDS. They are currently located on Baker Street but will soon relocate to 317 Castro Street. For more information, call 346-0770.

Pride Run '95 will be held Saturday, June 17 at 9 a.m. at the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park. The course is TAC-sanctioned. Registration is \$20 if runners pre-register by June 10, and \$25 if registration is post-marked after June 10, 1995. For FrontRunner members registration is \$18 (\$23 after June 10). Registration guarantees a fabulous T-shirt. For a registration form, please write to Pride Run '95, c/o FrontRunners, 1550 California St., Suite 6L200, San Francisco, CA 94109, or call 978-2429. ▼



Photo: Nancy Boutilier

Runners are preparing for the big one in Golden Gate Park, June 17.



AIDS Performance Series' Positive Acts

The Drama Therapy Program at the California Institute of Integral Studies will present *Positive Acts*, an AIDS performance series in May at the California Institute of Integral Studies, 765 Ashbury Street (between Waller and Frederick).

More than just theater about AIDS, *Positive Acts* is performance created and performed by people with HIV. It's about their stories, which are spiritual, angry, hopeful, sexy, funny, ironic, informative, moving, scary and much more. It's about fostering a "positive act" in the midst of an epidemic.

The series kicks off Thursday, May 4, with a performance by Positive Spirit of *Fastforward*, a dynamic theater piece by HIV positive young people. Directed by Margery Kretman, *Fastforward* consists of personal stories, monologues, poems, and scenes that explore what it's like to be twentysomething and HIV positive. This performance is free and no reservations are required. A light lunch will be served from 12-12:30 p.m. Show starts at 12:30.

The series continues on Tuesday, May 9, with Alberto Antonio Araiza in his one-man show H.I.Vato, a wild ride with one of LA's original homeboys as he approaches the end of his first decade of living with HIV. Araiza takes us from the initial "death sentence" diagnosis to defiant survival. (\$12 general admission/\$9 students/\$5 for HIV positives.) Show starts at 6:45 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 16, Marin performance artist and movement therapist Jamie McHugh (pictured above) will present his solo performance and ritual *Alive at the Edge: Field Notes from an Endangered Species*. Incorporating dance, gesture, sound and text, McHugh reflects upon AIDS and homophobia, mind/body healing, and spiritual awakening. Show is at 6:45 p.m. A light dinner is available for purchase between 6 and 6:45 p.m. Ticket prices same as above. For reservations or information, call 861-5345. — Cathay Che ▼

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Parting Glances

Sweet on Your Harley
You said I look sweet tonight (thursday 3/30 before 7pm) at Van Ness red light on your cycle then you rode on the sidewalk near Max's. Can we talk? I'm interested. Me: blonde guy in silver car. You're Hot! ☎ 2604.

Nob Hill 3/31, 11:30pm
You: White tee, blue plaid shirt, great tan. Me: black tee, blue linen shirt, pony tail, exchanged several glances was too nervous to say hi, would like to reciprocate that. Please call. ☎ 2803.

Castro St. Pasqua, Sat 4/1 3-4pm
You: hot man in red cap, jacket, and sweat pants. Me: blonde hair, beard, wearing short. I didn't have a chance to say hi, had to go to airport to pick up someone. I'd like to find out what you kept reaching for in your pocket. Call me! ☎ 2700.

Dinner in the City
I went to the Travel Lodge where you were staying & you invited me for dinner. You are here in the states for 7 days & then you have to go back to Korea. You said you would call me the next day but you never did. ☎ 2805.

Collingswood Park
Sun afternoon, 3/26. You: Asian, baseball cap, jeans, shirtless. Walking your dog. We talked about your dog. Me: crew cut, shorts, purple shirt. Would like to see more of you. ☎ 2606.

Eros 3/31 - Bob?
We met in the locker room. I said you were a handsome. You gave someone else a ride home. Would like to get you out our cage for dinner. Call for an invitation. Jimmy. ☎ 2802.

Gaker Beach
3/31 I was wearing speedo and have a goatee. You were wearing dark blue speedo and kept writing and writing. As my roommate and I left, you and I said hello. Please respond. ☎ 2601.

Douglas, Pleasuredome, 2/18
We danced. You're about 25-30, 5'9", wht brown/black hair that falls over your forehead, sexy eyes, and a great smile. I was wearing a baseball cap, jeans, and a blue/purple checked hooded sweatshirt. You were definitely hot and I wanted to get to know you but was too shy to let you know it. I'm letting you know now. Call me. ☎ 2644.

Civic Center, Wed 4/5, 11:00 a.m.
You: exiting Muni at 8th St, tall, short dark hair, goatee, sunglasses. Me: entering station, brown leather jacket, short light hair, sunglasses, green backpack. We smiled at bottom of escalator and looked back. Would like to meet you. Please call! ☎ 2701.

George
You came into my flower shop. Before Valentine's I was talking with owner. You are real cute. Try again Dan. ☎ 2701.

Ford Baseball Cap
Muni subway going downtown 7:30am, Fri 3/31. I got on at church St. You: Latin/Italian w/ pony tail and Ford cap. Me: Tall blond dressed in black. We both got off at Civic Center. Your Hot! ☎ 2803.

Oakland Adult Bookstore
4/15 7pm. You: tall aggressive. Me: wearing shorts blue sweat shirt. Enjoyed our encounter like to see you again in more discreet place, time to relax, take it to next level if can't leave phone* Leave time & date.. ☎ 2801.

W/S 88 East Bay
Sorry I missed your add. We have the same interest. Leave a # and we'll talk. Maybe more.. ☎ 2802.

Leticia's 4/11
You: Red hair, beard and glasses. Me: grey goatee and glasses. We were both w/ someone else but shared great eye contact. I'd like to see more of you. How about margarita's at my place? ☎ 2803.

Midnight sun 4/6/86
You wore red t-shirt are, clean shaven dark hair. I wore black plaid long sleeve shirt, 6'11", dark hair, clean shaven. You left before we talked. Please call. ☎ 2803

Tit Nuzier Sat 4/6 2am
(Sunday) Heron Alley. Your hot mouth and finger on my hairy chest made me blow but we left suddenly. You drove a white 4wd. I need more.. Peter. ☎ 2803.

18th/Castro Easter Sunday
4/16 approx 5:00 pm. You: Asian? driving gold (champagne) Toyota. Made stopped at 18th St light. Me: wth: dark hair, moust. blue ray stripe, grey 50's waiting for friend. We smiled let's get a closer look! ☎ 2848.

Blockbuster Video/Safeway Market

I believe your name is Richard. We met at Safeway/Market Street the day power was out. Met again on Easter Sunday at Block Buster. I was renting Priella, introduced myself. James, You live on Sanchez, me Guerrero. Would like to talk again. ☎ 2845.

Seeking Relationship M-M

Seeking Passionate Relationship

Me: Sexy, GWM, fin. secure, emotionally and physically fit. HIV+, tan lines, 28yo. I have a "you go girl" attitude. Into reading, politics, running, working out, tropical climates and leading an adventurous life style. Looking to date other gay men with similar interest. ☎ 2611.

Single in Vallejo

GWM, HIV+, 5'8", 140, blue eyes att w/ model build. Seeks a good friend who is caring, intellectual & considerate of others, cuddles and also seeking a good honest 30 to 40ish, healthy, wealthy & wise friendship. ☎ 2618.

I Have A Bear Magazine Look

GWM, 40, hairy, husky, balding with a western mustache, I'm 5'9", 195+, brk brn hair. I'm looking for a guy 20 to 30 w/ attractive boyish looks for a possible relationship. I enjoy bicycling, walks, film, Sci-Fi. Safe versatile sex, cuddling. ☎ 2710.

Bodybuilder Wanted

I want to admire your body, feed you muscle building food and watch your muscles grow. I am GWM, 25, 5' 11" thin and cute. ☎ 2617.

Masculine, Tall, GWM

Handsome 43yo, 6'3", 175#, salt/pepper hair, HIV- seeks monogamous relationship. I have a great sense of humor and enjoy travel, fine dining, music, romance & cuddling. You: WM, 30-45, HIV-, financially secure, tall romantic, affectionate. Hairy, long hair at! ☎ 2615.

Passionate River Phoenix

incarnation, masseur, yoga teacher w/ visions of a powerful world seeks generous noble man in exchange for love. ☎ 2807.

GWM Seeking GBM

27, 5'11", 185#, well-built, attractive, down to earth who is looking for someone attractive, stable and ready to grow with someone. ☎ 2618.

Very Good Looking GWM

26, brn/brown, 5'10", 155#, winter, extremely intelligent, all-around great guy seeks special boyfriend to make my life complete. You are also extremely intelligent GWM, 21-35, in-shape, educated, cute enough to be selective, no hair loss, bottomish, take relationships seriously. Together we conquer. ☎ 2711.

Bodybuilder Wanted

I want to admire your body, feed you muscle building food and watch your muscles grow. I am GWM, 25, 5' 11" thin and cute. ☎ 2617.

Witty World Traveller

HIV+, Top, 35, into Biking, Hiking, Travel, Dining, Yoga, Taoism, seeking sensuous, masculine, non-smoking "soul mate" under 35. Introvert invited. ☎ 2738.

Rugged Hairy HIV+ Daddy

42, muscular, healthy(honest), very hairy dad needs strong hairy drug-free son to share workouts, muscled fun, butt play, peccv, leather, B&G, rough sweaty father/son wrestling, long passionate nights. I have much to share with right stud boy. ☎ 2713.

Just an Average Guy

GWM, 5'4", 46, 230#, HIV+, brown hair, very blue eyes. You: GWM, over 6', over 40, HIV+, and a nice guy. ☎ 2606.

Zana Turyay Where Are You?

I have something for you - Hawaiian Jackie said try Sacramento - but I had no Luck. John from Rumpus Room. ☎ 2708.

WM Bodybuilder Likes His "Brothers"

I'm 34, 5'11", 185#, very handsome, very masculine. N/S, HIV-, seeking same in BM bodybuilder (my size or larger & versatile). I know your appetite(s) and I live up to my Scorpio reputation. Let's get to it and maybe we can talk LTR if something clicks besides our 50's. ☎ 2738.

River Phoenix Incarnation

Seeks generous, worldly, courageous soul to pamper I'm honest & daring! Be alive! Freedom for my people! ☎ 2818.

Dad Needs Bottom Son

My arms hold what the world lacks. Me: attrac. GWM, 45, 6'5", 280#, football players build. You: attrac. GWM, 21-35, slim, smooth-moderate body hair w/ great buns. Sex: Ass-massage, lite spanking. Good kisser a plus. ☎ 2815.

HIV+, Lethica's, 24

Goodlooking, 5'7", 175#, dark features, collegiate type, healthy, mostly a top. I would like to meet Latins, Asians, Blacks or Whites 24-35 for friendship maybe more. Real, sincere, honest are a plus. ☎ 2818.

Boy Wonder

34, 6'1", 185#, HIV+, wants to form dynamic duo with Batman/Bruce Wayne type. I enjoy outdoors, photography, travel, dogs and adoring my man. Holy pants-tent Batman call now. ☎ 2817.

Love and Romance

Have platonic lover. No passion, sex or romance. He knows I'm looking for someone to fill my needs. I am loving, hopeless romantic, sexually open minded, 6'3", 190#, br/br, moustache, HIV+, smoker, a bottom with a caring heart, handsome, high voice, love to kiss and enjoy spontaneous love making. I want someone who can show me what

Gay Black Male Seeks Friends

Must be bearded and thin. I'm 165#, 38, HIV-. I'm into rock, jazz, and space music, mountains, woods, wild flowers, gardening, vegetarian food, preserving the environment, biking, camping, massage, tree & spirituality. I'm looking for companions who are smart, concerned about environment, positive, and friendly and who enjoy nature. ND, NS, NA. ☎ 2808.

Looking For that "Special Someone"

To spend quality time w/ as a friend; to date and possibly have LTR w/ the right person. Me: eBay, GWM, 43, dk br, hazel eyes, attractive 5'10", 175#, sensitive, romantic, caring. You: 30-40yo attractive, funny, sincere, enjoy music dancing, outdoors, ND, Latin/Asian a plus. Let's meet and talk! ☎ 2637.

Friends, Love & Love

Professional top GWM, 6'4", muscular 28yo, NS, ND enjoy movies theatre, dancing, romantic dinners, quiet evenings at home, cultural, social and sporting events. Seeking similar professional bottom GM 6'2" or taller NS, ND for dating. Long term poss. ☎ 2813.

Seeking 3F GWM Top

For affectionate, romantic bottom who likes weekend dining, drinks. Raw penetration preferred. You: younger than I, healthy and humorous. Me: GWM, early 50's, 5'11", 220# of non-attitude. ☎ 2814.

Big Bro .

GWM, 34, 6', 150#, br/br, HIV-, handsome, in shape, versatile, hung, prof. Secrecy, together & fun seeks curious/open collegiate type. WM, 18-22 for friendship, nurture and... Discretion assured. ND, flakes or hustlers. Take a chance, dude. ☎ 2838.

Will You Be #4?

#1 lover bad heart: #3 bad liver; #2 now top top H/W director; to each I was monogomously sexy 5yrs: #4 smart/slim/sweet/hung/uncut/big loads: candidate enjoys thorough audition after mutual inspection/approval. ☎ 2712.

Looking Sexy In Chaps and Boots?

Handsome, bl/gb, gym toned, HIV-, ISO a lean, under 35, relationship oriented GWM. Affectionate, politically aware and health conscious A+. If you're looking for a guy you'll want to spend time with, then give me a call. ☎ 2843.

Passionate River Phoenix

incarnation, masseur, yoga teacher w/ visions of a powerful world seeks generous noble man in exchange for love. ☎ 2807.

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Too Trusting?

We too! I could be happier if there were a loving man in my life. I am 5'8", 165#, bi/br, ND, smoker, HIV-, warm, charming, good looks. You too? ☎ 2610.

Handsome Buffed Friend

GWM, 35, 5'6", 150+, very discreet safe mature, employed professional looking for male 25 to 35 discreet, professional, no drugs or bad hang-ups, any race, but must be comment minded. ☎ 2804.

Attractive GWM

31+, 5'10", 170, athletic w/ adventurous spirit, seeks a romantic attractive GHM/GAM for friendship/LTR. Must be down to earth and great sense of self. ☎ 2806.

Texas Cuddler

seeking partner for hikes, workouts, movies, and a lifetime of smuggling. Me: 4 medical licenses, ex Army Pentagon computer trainer, 5'10", 170+, blue eyes, 24yo, clean cut Midwest buff. You, over 6' clean cut. ☎ 2807.

Friendly British Guy

Dark-haired, GWM, s/p, beard & moustache, 39, looking for other attractive, intelligent, sincere relationship. See in great, but I also want companionship too. Tired of seeing movies on my own. ☎ 2808.

Jungle Fever

GWM, HIV+, 6', 189#, healthy! Looking for one man one love and many hot nights together. UB positive mind, body and spirit. Know the difference between small talk and true communication. Willing & able to have a mature relationship, both in and out of the bedroom. NS. ☎ 2808.

GWM Wants GM 18-21

Lonely, 29yo seeks, GM, 18-21, any race, any size for relationship. I am husky, 185#, 5'9", caring, considerate, compassionate, generous, guy. ☎ 2810.

Handsome Sadistic Daddy

44, smoker, needs full-time boy to spank, paddle, piss on, squeeze balls and tits and service me sexually and domestically and cuddle with. Relationship oriented and under 40 preferred. ☎ 2811.

Seeking a Young Son

GWM mid 50's seeks GWM/GAM under 30 for son. I 6'11", 200# handsome Italian. U/B clean N/D, N/S, drug free. HIV status unimportant. Pluses long hair, smooth, cut, vers. Sex not as important as attitude. Will treat you as a son. ☎ 2812.

Dad Bottom Wants Top Son

In SF, 23-37, for weekend dining/drinking, raw sex. Dad is generous, affectionate, LTR - oriented. HIV+ ok if healthy. I'm early 50's, 5'11", 220#. No attitude, son, Call now. ☎ 2813.

Hot In-Shape GWM

32, swimmer's build, 5'9", 140#, brn/grn, educated, professional seeks hot BB for play and/or relat. Any race. I'm fun, safe, HIV+ you too, please. ☎ 2814.

Dad Needs Bottom Son

My arms hold what the world lacks. Me: attrac. GWM, 45, 6'5", 280#, football players build. You: attrac. GWM, 21-35, slim, smooth-moderate body hair w/ great buns. Sex: Ass-massage, lite spanking. Good kisser a plus. ☎ 2815.

HIV+, Lethica's, 24

Goodlooking, 5'7", 175#, dark features, collegiate type, healthy, mostly a top. I would like to meet Latins, Asians, Blacks or Whites 24-35 for friendship maybe more. Real, sincere, honest are a plus. ☎ 2818.

Boy Wonder

34, 6'1", 185#, HIV+, wants to form dynamic duo with Batman/Bruce Wayne type. I enjoy outdoors, photography, travel, dogs and adoring my man. Holy pants-tent Batman call now. ☎ 2817.

Love and Romance

Have platonic lover. No passion, sex or romance. He knows I'm looking for someone to fill my needs. I am loving, hopeless romantic, sexually open minded, 6'3", 190#, br/br, moustache, HIV+, smoker, a bottom with a caring heart, handsome, high voice, love to kiss and enjoy spontaneous love making. I want someone who can show me what

Bar Talk Persons are FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Use only the space provided.

Do not attach additional paper or text. Deadline for ads is Wednesday, 5 pm, for the following week's issue. New ads will run for 3 consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. We reserve the right to edit ads.

Select One: Parting Glances Seeking Relationship M-M Seeking Adventure M-M

Seeking Relationship W-W Seeking Adventure W-W Fetishes Couples Other

Name_____ Day Phone No._____ Eve. Phone No._____

Address_____ Apt No._____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

Write your headline here: _____ (stop here)

Write the rest of the ad here: _____ (stop here)

_____ (stop here)

Mail to: BarTalk, 395 Ninth St., SF CA 94103

PERSONALS

he wants. Be handsome, trim to medium build, masculine, and well hung 7+. I live in Redwood City lets share our need and bodies. Love is the key JC 2819.

Affairs of the Heart
GAM, 21, 5'8", 185#, looking for GWM 25-35 clean cut, sense of humor romantic, caring, for LTR. Personality is an "A+" on my list looks are not as important as a good hearted man. 2739. hearted man. JC 2739.

Seeking Adventure M-M

Raw Penetration from Top
GWM in SF needed by generous, affectionate bottom, into dining/drinking, dating weekends. LTR oriented. Healthy HIV+ ok. Me: fun GWM, early 50's, 5'11", 220#. JC 2737.

Big Cock 6 1/2 Cut
Beautiful sweet Asian, 25, 4'8", 110#, sexy, HIV-, seeks, HIV-, GWM 19-40 bottom. JC 2705.

Asian Tennis Player
Wanted for daytime play during the weekdays, by 39yo, 5'10", 170#, w/ a gym toned body. JC 2842.

Toys Dirty Talk
BM mutual ass play, safe toys, videos, role playing. Your butt or mine's your place. JC 2848.

E. Palo Alto GAM
35yo, 5'11", 205 lbs giving guys under 45 free head. Lay back, enjoy my mouth watering blow job. Have lips will travel from Foster City to Sunnyvale areas only. JC 2828.

Deep Throat Gungjub
for xxthick uncut dick any age, race. Tweak my tits and I dive to the root. No recip. Kick back for a few stoned hours of brilliant service, not sucking, etc. JC 2717.

Free Quality Massage
For well-built young men who take good care of themselves. I'm 6'2", 175#, well-built, gdkng, masculine. Come stretch out on my table for a safe pleasurable experience. Sincere only. JC 2621.

East Bay GAM
Seeking top fuck buddy 44yo, 6', 160#, br/bl. Like porn, uncut a plus, any race. JC 2822.

Latino Uncut Top Wanted
Oakland area by bottom WM 5'11", HIV-. My car one evening in secluded area for test? JC 2623.

Black on blonde
Black East Bay too many, 40, experienced and hung big, seeks masculine, husky, blonde bottoms for brief but intense sessions at my place. Home phone # required. Experienced, sincere, blonde bottoms only. Discretion guaranteed. JC 2824.

Daytime Sex Buddy
Hot GLM 38, 5'10", 160#, hairy muscular bod w/ 7" uncut thick, HIV-, seeks gkng guys 18-40, in shape, for safe weekday encounters. Bl/bl A+, SF only. R U horny days? Lets meet. JC 2638.

Healthy HIV+
Seeking dominant WM top 25-35yo for kinky sex and more. Me: LM, 24, 5'5", w/ piercings and shaved head & nuts. JC 2839.

Seeking Ongoing Fuck Buddy
Ebby mid 50's wants to connect w/ a guy that wants to play. Prefer ongoing. I'm in good shape 5'8", 165#. Not looking for relationship but if you're in one, or married and need a buddy for play, call. Uncut A+. JC 2840.

Island Dreams
I am micronesians and I am interested to meet couple or big white man to share fantasy w/ and teach me. I am HIV- and 5'6". If you are interested call me and let's talk. JC 2728.

Walnut Creek
Aussie 32, 6', 180 str/blonde hazel wants hot sweat sex evenings. Let me feel your cock in my mouth and up my ass. JC 2841.

East Bay Bearded Bear GW CPL

Gdkng, 51/41, both hairy, husky (226/235), HIV-. Looking for one or more mas men for safe sex. Age, race, looks, size unimportant. Prefer versatile (more top than bottom), hairy, real men with healthy sexual appetite. Come spend the night or weekend with us. Give us a call. JC 2825.

Wanted: Hot JD Buddy In SF

To shot late nite sweet loads of mutual cock worship in mad poet's high pad. I am mature 60's lovechild, 57yo, 5'5", beautiful legs from running, beautiful smile from boyish love of life and sex. Want man of any age to fall in love w/ every night. JC 2547.

Str8? Hairy? Horny? 30+?

Gentle, mature SF deepthroat offers relaxing massage and fulfillment. Not seeking gay or bi guy. Absolutely no reciprocation. Prefer married, blue-collar, rugged man for one-time or repeat basis. Flexible hours. Safe, discreet and expect the same. Celtic background a plus. JC 2718.

Have Boyfriend Want Sex

Wanted: Tall older white male top who enjoys being serviced orally. Maybe twice a week, I have place, suits a turn on! Day time best, looking for something steady - no string attached. Me: 5'8", 150#, 8", 36, WM, br;br. JC 2827.

**GWM Wanted
By Great Looking GWM**

GAM, 27, 5'10", 140#, hairless, and strikingly handsome seeks GWM (25-45). I am articulate, ambitious, secure, sexually versatile, and witty. Corporate, All-American, athletic, and military types especially desirable. JC 2725.

Two's Good, 3 Could Be Great

Two (black & white) 25yo, athletic and attractive Cal guys seek third - any race for 20+ for road trips, movies, conversations and intense male bonding. We're both very "down-to-earth" and in shape, you must be too. Your safety, confidentiality and pleasure is assured. JC 2727.

Gdkng Bearded GW Bear Cpl

In Ebay both HIV-, husky (220/235), mature (50/40) seeks masculine, blue collar type men for safe sex. Age, race, looks, size unimportant. Organizing a monthly or bi-monthly party for a few good men. Give us a call. You won't be sorry! JC 2741.

HIV+ Masculine Men Only

Looking for tall average looking men who are well endowed. Must like sex for hours. Must keep your emotion out of it and only go for the pleasure of sex - no strings attached. Me: 5'8", 150#, 8", 36, WM, br;br. JC 2728.

At Your Service!

In bottom for real top man - never tried before for fear of pain, especially the first time. Can you teach me to like it? JC 2822.

Attractive Masculine GAM

Clean-cut, 31, 5'10", 171#, muscular seeks other buff guys 20-40

for sizzling hot times together. Especially like body contact w/ hunks of color. JC 2823.

Black Adventurous Warrior

Seeks other Blk. Warrior's Equally adventurous, 47, 5'10", brn. skin, HIV-, 190#, of man to man love & affection. Warrior's uncut, big balls & hairy chest takes what he want and gets as good as he gives. JC 2824.

At Your Service!

Expert, hassle free, laid back oral service by hot Italian bottom. Available days and evenings. Seeking hot men to service and drain. No reciprocation desired. Straight and Bi men welcome. Castro location. Call for description. JC 2825.

Hot Wet Butt

Needs deep penetrating attention by AM, any age, height/weight proportionate. Me: 47, 170#, 5'10", goatee, moustache, balding, great ass. You: nice guy, honest with stamina for hours of fun. JC 2833.

**Smooth Latin/Asian
Bums Wanted**

Novice Asian Man

In bottom for real top man - never tried before for fear of pain, especially the first time. Can you teach me to like it? JC 2822.

Attractive Masculine GAM

Clean-cut, 31, 5'10", 171#, muscular seeks other buff guys 20-40

for sizzling hot times together. Especially like body contact w/ hunks of color. JC 2823.

East ritualistic Cock Action

Mainly into intense, heavy mutual dirty talk jerk off. Possibly some oral (mostly my receiving) while we are getting fucked up (share expenses 50/50)) My place, 10-11 pm. Not into video, shaved cocks. Let's put on our own show. Seeking guys very endowed, thickness more important than length. JC 2847.

Seeking Export Service

sexy hairy bear, 43, 5'5", 135#, HIV+, with hot crotch seeks hungrily talented top man for long hot sessions of oral worship and service. Verbal imaginative dominant sane & healthy. Marin, can travel. JC 2843.

Group Oil Massage

Nude massage for hot men, sensual, erotic, and very relaxing. Sore muscles soothed. Erect muscles exploded! Weekly groups limited to eight hot naked men. Tables recommended. Join us. JC 2838.

Pants Down JD Buddies

Goodlooking, GWM, 40's, sees men 30's or older into pulling down their pants (w/o belts) showing hand on/in jockeys/boxers, shooting their load w/ their pants & shorts pulled down. Men in suits, slacks or uniforms welcome also. JC 2829.

Underwear Discipline

Versatile safe GWM, HIV-, 5'6", 145#, 40's, short lt br hair/eyes, dominant exp top w/ diverse collection will erotically wrestle, strip, change, spank, humiliate submissive young looking guys, small/medium. Tell me your brief fantasy now. JC 2835.

Long Hair Lover

I'm a sucker for a dude w/ long hair, literally. BM, 30's, in-shape, wants to give you (wm: 20-30) The ultimate below-the-belt oral attention you deserve. No reciprocation desired. Discreet, HIV-. JC 2844.

Take The Challenge If You Dare?

R U into dirty talk but tired of phone sex? Into BJ but meet fuckers/suckers? Into buddy to buddy action but meet top/bottoms? Into getting wasted but meet tea totallers? Then let's party, my place (Oakland, share costs), 10-11pm. No shave cocks please. JC 2848.

Seeking Freaky Huge Nipples

Hot muscular 37. I'm looking for a hot guy with huge protruding nipples to date pit be serious no games. JC 2851.

Couples

Asian Travel Companion

Gay or Bi Asian who wants to travel with a Bi-white male, 28. Planning a trip to SE Asia in late May. Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia. You: young, Asian, interesting, able to share expenses. Me: been there before. Know where all the clubs, shows and hang outs are, but don't like to travel alone. JC 2833.

I am Looking For a Chinese Guy

Guy to practice my Mandarin with. If you would be willing to spend 1-2 hours per week. Please ring. JC 2834.

Convenience Situation Child Desired

26yo, GWM, seeks female for convenience marriage/companionship situation. I'm sensitive, caring, & easy to get along with. I'm interested in being a father. Prefer relocation to Tucson/Phoenix area, but open to San Francisco area. JC 2734.

Other

Young Couple Seeks Others

Gdkng, young couple, both late 20's seeks other single guys or couples for fun times. Please be clean cut & under 35. JC 2733.

Ban Talk

call NOW!

1-900-844-2227

Still Only 98¢ Per Minute To Respond To Ads!

Available Only in the Bay Area on Touch-Tone Telephones. You Must Be at Least 18 Y/O to Call.

Butt Service
Two hot guys into rimming and other oral service for guys 18-35 in-shape, like to party, have great butts, ideas? JC 2718.

**Day and Night,
Financial District**
Povell and Market, hot ass good looking fit submissive bottom GAM 32, 5'8", 150# seeks tops to cum over. Plow my butt. JC 2715.

SF/Peninsula
Cute GWM, 23, 6', 165#, versatile, seeks godlooking GLM or GWM, under 35, for hot passionate sex on a regular basis. JC 2740.

GLM Wants GWM
Seeking caucasian tops for fun. I', 37, 5'4", 135#, a bottom and ready for loving. JC 2842.

Asian You
A heavy set man who likes his cock and balls worshipped! Gdkng, mas, coskukster provides kick back servicing (1 time or reg.) Big balls and verbal abuse a plus. JC 2827.

Asian Bottom With Hot Ass
Masculine, tit, attractive, 32, 5'8", 150# seeks top man, any race, for regular hot fuck days and nights. Downtown San Francisco. JC 2836.

Muscle Top Serviced
Oral bottom boy, 30yo, needs a big dick attached to big muscles. Water sports cock sucking and water sport. Dominant top will be satisfied! No Drugs! JC 2840.

Fetishes
Hot, Hairy Tight Latino Ass
Looking for black men tops who enjoys fucking hot Latino man ass. I am 42, slender & hot. I like a big fat dick at my man's hole. Give me a call. Let's enjoy it. JC 2828.

Mid-Peninsula
5'7", 150#, 50s, HIV- look for LTR daytime or nights, my place seekongoing safe encounters. Prefer someone under 50. No strings, just fun & friendship. JC 2830.

Hose Swallowing Wanted
408 area code. Me: Bi, BM, 50's, HIV-, stocky, horny, smoker, clean. Age possible. Age/race not important. JC 2831.

BI-Curious and ?
This attr discreet/understanding GWM, 21, 5'8", 160#, will satisfy your curiosity about having oral sex w/ another man. You are gay, bi, straight, under 40, gdkng, open-minded and teachable. I enjoy daddy/sons scenes a lot too! JC 2821.

Here Is My Fantasy
I lay naked on my bed, you walk in (door unlock) with a hard on you grease my man's hole & fuck my ass. Age, race unimportant Afro-American most welcome. JC 2832.

**Pervert Dad
seeks Pervert Oral Son**
For total service, Kink & fantasy A+-. Me: 45, masc, hairy chest, 6'4", 240#. You: Under 35, smooth, in shape. Poss relate. JC 2832.

THIS WEEK

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

This Week
Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

Friday 28

Adventures In Clintonland

Syndicated columnist Norman Solomon in solo performance. Thurs.-Sat. thru 4/29. \$8-12. 8:30pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. **828-6750**.

Betrayal

Harold Pinter's drama of infidelity, extended Thurs.-Sat. thru 4/29. \$11-13. 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. **881-8972**.

The Big Broadcast
The music of the 1940s live to the Kool Kats big band orchestra. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Sat. & Sun. at 2pm. Sun. at 7pm. \$19-25. Presidio Performing Arts Theatre, Moraga at Montgomery. **351-1945**.

Dynamic Duality

"Fine Artists As Craftspeople," a show of functional objects and fine art, opens tonight, 6pm. Sat. & Sun. 11am-6pm. Olan House, 390 Page. **255-8842**.

Elements

SF-based dance ensemble Ellie Herman & Co. create tableaux vivant. Fri-Sun. thru 5/7. \$10. 8:30pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. **883-8834**.

Faggot With a Gun

Comic Mark Davis' hit one-man show, his farewell SF performances. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/7. \$12. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **881-7833**.

Marga Gomez, Sabrina Matthews

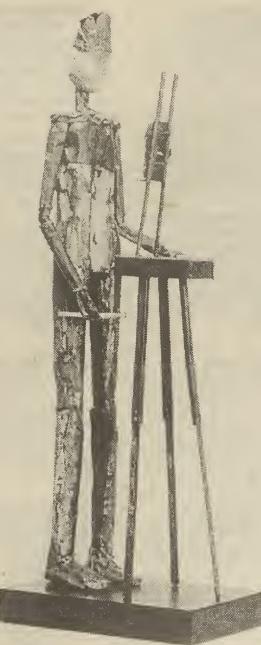
Stand-up comedy. \$12. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **881-7833**.

I Do! I Do!

Two-character musical comedy follows fifty years of marriage. Fri. at 8pm. Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm thru 5/21. \$12. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. **881-8872**.

Idiot Variations

Paul Dreher Ensemble presents Rinde Eckert's musical



▲ See Monday

Tor Archer's A Plein-Air Fool in the Transamerica Pyramid.

Pure Imagination

Cabaret singer Betty Schneider returns to the Plush Room. Fri. & Sat. thru 4/29. \$15. 8pm. York Hotel, 940 Sutter. **885-2800**.

Rocky Horror Superstar

"The Jesus of Frankenstein Story," a Playstitute production with "With No Anchovies." Fri. & Sat. thru 4/29. \$12. 8pm. Third Wave Dance House, 3316 24th St. **331-1583** ext. 1313.

Spike and Mike's Festival of Animation

Animated artistry, including Oscar winner "Bob's Birthday." Weekends thru April, call for times. \$7. Tonight at 9:30pm. Palace of Fine Arts, Bay & Lyon. **567-8842**.

Spit Out Your Gun...

"It's School Policy," a comedy about teaching by Miriam Engelberg and Gayle Schmitt. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm. \$9. 8pm. Asian American Theatre, Second Stage, 403 Arguello. **822-8841**.

GAWK

Gay Artists and Writers Collective weekly meetings Sun. 2:30pm. Info: Jon Sugar at **731-2424**.

Daniel Curzon, George Birimisa

Two gay playwrights discuss their work, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. **431-0891**.

MCC/SF Anniversary

25th anniversary as lesbian/gay/bi/trans congregation. Senior Pastor Jim Mitisuki and Rev. Troy Perry. 150 Eureka. **883-4434**.

The Stepford Wives

The Sick and Twisted Players' interpretation. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 4/29. \$12-15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. **881-8972**.

Wide World O' Women

Screening of "The Lesbian Mating Game" episode, free. 6pm. The Mint, 1942 Market. **828-4178**.

X-posé

Local legend Miss X sings, accompanied by Birdie Bob Watt. Fridays thru April. \$8. 10:30pm. Eichelberger's, 2742 17th St. **883-4177**.

Saturday 29

An Acquired Taste

Gala benefit for AIDS Emergency Fund & the Agape Foundation, hosted by Alexis Miranda. Cocktails 7:30pm, dinner 8pm, show 9pm. \$10 advance, \$15 door. Embassy Lounge, 600 Polk. **552-2810**.

Beer/Soda Bust

Fundraiser for Communication Access Network, interpreter fund for deaf leathermen and women. \$6. 8-11pm. SF Eagle, 12th & Harrison.

Richard Bolingbroke

"New Directions/ New Work," open studio. Sat. & Sun. 12-6pm. 2356 15th St. **883-5654**.

Marga Gomez, Karen Ripley

Two comics who started their careers at the Valencia Rose. \$12. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **881-7833**.

Life & Love

Images by Mark Hannon from his series "Life, Love & Sex In SF," thru 6/1. Alta Plaza Bar & Grill, 2301 Fillmore. **822-1444**.

Pirates of Penzance

Lamplighters' production of Gilbert & Sullivan's classic operetta. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm thru 4/30. \$23. Presentation Campus Theatre, 2350 Turk. **227-0331**.

Springtime at the Lake

Dance for women produced by Bay Area Career Women. \$10-12 advance, \$15 door. Lake Merritt Hotel, 1900 Madison, Oakland. **495-5393**.

Sunday 30

Cinco de Mayo Parade

Begins at 24th & Bryant Sts. at 11am, proceeds down Mission to 14th St. **828-1401**.

Country Sundays

Women's Country-Western dancing. \$5-10. Class 6:30pm, dance 7:30pm. No smoke, alcohol, scent or boots. Finnish Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley. **(510) 428-2144**.

Christopher Bram

Reads from his new novel, *Father of Frankenstein*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. **431-0891**.

4x4

44 self-portraits, each measuring 4" x 4", by photographer Lalo Segura. Reception tonight, 7pm. Thru May. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. **884-7854**.



▲ See Monday

"God's Will" by Loren Cameron in *Body Alchemy* at 848 Community Space.

Peace Corps Reunion

The Bay Area Lesbian/Gay Returned Peace Corps Volunteers holds a potluck meeting. 5pm. Call for info. **686-7726**.

Rites of Spring

Bear bust bash benefits Rita Rocket's brunches at SFGH Ward 5-A. \$6. 6am-Noon. Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison. **883-8899**.

Monday 1

Aerial Photographs

Exhibition of prints by aerial photography pioneer William Garnett. Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm thru 5/13. Vision Gallery, 1155 Mission. **621-2107**.

Altar of the Heart

Brian Rothstein's sculpture, made of welded auto parts. Thru 6/30. SF Honda showroom, Van Ness at Market. **441-2000**.

Body Alchemy

Photographer Loren Cameron documents the transsexual community, including nude self-portraits. Opening tonight, 5-7pm. Exhibit open on Sundays, 1-5pm thru 6/1. 848 Community Art Space, 848 Divisadero. **765-7658**.

Angels in America

Part I, *Millennium Approaches* and Part II, *Peregrina*. Tues.-Sat. at 7:30pm. SFSU, 1600 Holloway Ave. **338-2753**.

Kathy Acker, Robert Glück

Two pioneers of postmodern fiction read. \$5. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. **628-2787**.

Art of Other
"Source painting artists Tues.-Sat. Center Mission.
Bacon
Artists metal, Tues.-Sat. 5/29. Museum 775-0140.
Sand Scott
Birk's Siedman Overations new 14.
Photo

▼ See Thursday

TwentySomething and HIV+ Positive Spirit in "Fastforward" at CIIIS.





Art of the Other Mexico

"Sources and Meanings," paintings and sculpture by artists of Mexican descent. Tues.-Sun. thru 5/14. \$4. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. **878-ARTS**.

Bacchus' Vessels

Artists create wine vessels in metal, glass and ceramics. Tues.-Sun. 11am-5pm thru 5/29. \$1. SF Craft & Folk Art Museum, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. **775-0890**.

Sandow Birk, Scott Siedman

Birk's "Tales of the Cities" and Siedman's "Triumph of Man Over Nature," painting exhibitions at Morphos Gallery's new location, Tues.-Sat. thru 5/1. 49 Geary. **828-1838**.

Monet

"Late Paintings of Giverny." Tues.-Sun., 10am-4:45pm. Wed. until 8:45pm thru 5/29. \$8.50. deYoung Memorial Museum, Golden Gate Park. **821-3330**.

A Moon for the Misbegotten

Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents Eugene O'Neill's classic. Tues.-Sun. thru 5/19. call for times. \$28-34. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. **(510) 843-4200**.

Volume I

Book Arts by Native American Artists. Tues.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm thru 7/1. American Indian Contemporary Arts, 685 Market St., Suite 250. **485-7600**.

Photo: Phyllis Christopher

Wednesday 3

Access

Exhibition highlighting emerging artists, including Mark Grotjahn, Scott Hewicker, Paula Levine. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm thru 5/20. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. **863-2141**.

Sarah Bernhardt

"Artist and Icon," exhibit of photos, paintings, posters, memorabilia of the great actress. Thru 6/4. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. **265-4800**.

Fruit Punch

Gay men's radio program, every Wed. 7pm. KPFA, 94. FM.

Gay Skate

Rink full of queers on roller-skates. \$5 includes skates rental. 8-10:30pm. Rolladium Roller Rink, 363 North Amphlett, San Mateo. Info: **98-SKATE**.

Hello, Dolly!

Carol Channing returns as Dolly Levi. Tues.-Sun. at various times thru 5/28. \$32-60. Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market. **474-3800**.

Inscrutable Objects

"Image and Icon in Recent Photography." \$4. Tues.-Sun., 11am-5pm thru 5/7. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. **485-7000**.

The Medium

Anne Bogart directs the Saratoga Internat'l Theater Institute in a theatrical interpretation of the life and writings of Marshall McLuhan. Wed.-Sun. thru 5/7. \$13.50-19.50. 8:30pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. **821-7787**.

A Place With The Pigs

"A Personal Parable" by Athol Fugard, staged by the Aurora Theatre Co. \$16-18. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm, 2pm weekend matinees thru 5/7. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. **510-843-4222**.

▼ See Friday

Norman Solomon in *Adventures in Clintonland* at the Marsh.

Wednesday 3

Diego Rivera Mural

Docents from the Mexican Museum lead tours of the Stock Exchange Bldg., including mural and other art treasures. \$5. 3pm. SF City Club, 155 Sansome St. **285-0495**.

Thursday 4

Bingo

Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. 6pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. **241-0425**.

Jane Chambers

John Glines' one act biography of lesbian playwright Chambers, and her comedy *The Quintessential Image*. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/13. \$12-15. Polly Klaes Per. Arts Center, Western & English Petaluma. **707-528-8208**.

Fastforward

Positive Spirit presents a theater piece written and performed by HIV+ young people, free. 12:30pm. California Institute of Integral Studies, 765 Ashbury. **861-6345**.

Nelson

One man show of paintings and sculpture, "Living in the Shadow of the Information SuperHighway." Also: recent works by Tamara Carlisle, Peter Lochmuller and Rhoda London. Thurs.-Sat. 12-5pm thru 5/18. **828-8817**.

Rush Limbaugh in Night School

Charlie Varon's comic solo performance returns. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 6/25. \$10-15. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. **841-0235**.

Super Natural

Art by Rick Johnson, Stephanie Syucco. Thurs.-Sun. 1-6pm thru 5/21. PUSH Gallery, 532 Natoma. **487-1889**.

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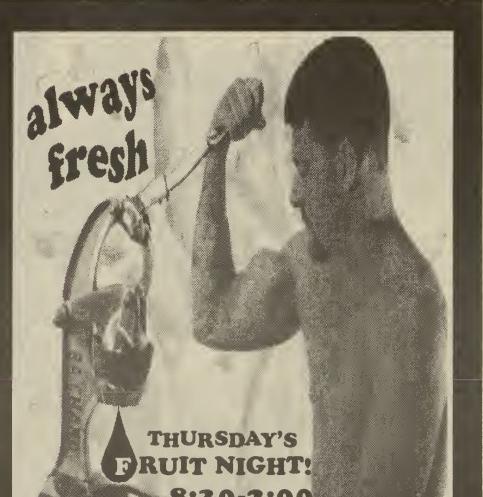
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Photo: Mr. Marcus

Mr. S.F. Leather '95 winners (L. to R.): Andy Anderson, first runner-up; Wolf Mirasol, Mr. S.F. Leather; and Tommy Reaves, second runner-up, chosen last Saturday, April 22.

Wolf Mirasol Wins Mr. S.F. Leather Title

The atmosphere was anything but benign last Saturday night at the Russian Center as almost 700 people of the leather persuasion gathered to witness a competition to name the 17th Mr. San Francisco Leather.

Locals as well as out of towners, and a fair number of foreigners too, gathered to mingle, cruise and applaud the onstage appearances of the local contenders. There were lots of VIPs in the audience, Empress Donna and Emperor Brian, as well as two IML judges, Chicago's Thom Dombrowski and Philip Dietrich of St. Louis.

The local leather friendly paparazzi was out in force along with many Mr. and Ms. Leathers from other cities. All were witness to one of the most spectacular Mr. SF Leather contests to date. The show was produced by Fantastic Realities, Unltd. Thank you Audrey Joseph and your extremely efficient crew.

Since this event is always a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, the number of volunteers who played a part in the evening is too long to list here, but some of the many who gave so much of themselves were the Phoenix Uniform Club (the bar and a major production number created by Warren Cave) and the Men of the 1995 Bare Chest Calendar, who put on a surprisingly demanding fast-paced dance number (directed by Charlie Seltz) that brought down the house.

Kim Wallace of Sacramento maintains her top-notch rating with bouncy/upbeat renditions that showcased her dynamic voice and fabulous stage presence.

As for emcees Daddy Irwin Kane and the fabulous Lurch, the proceedings were enhanced by their sparkling repartee throughout the evening. The audience was not disappointed with the dynamic patter of Mimi-Freed. Her brand of humor is unique and biting and she calls 'em as she sees 'em with no apologies. Mimi earned more than one or two standing ovations at various points in her dialogue, which had people doubled over in laughter. Fabulous Mimi!

But the real stars of the show were the six men who vied for the coveted title that brought male title-holders from all over to see what the competition from San Francisco will be like in Chicago next month.

Out of some seven or eight local bars that claim: "we are predominantly leather" only three of them bothered to send a contestant to the event, they being the SF Eagle (Wolf Mirasol), the Jackhammer (Tommy Reaves), and The Edge (L.J. McCarey). Three independents: Mike Ferguson, Andy Anderson, and Dennis Phelan also compet-

ed.

All of them were engaged in a tough pre-judging session in the afternoon with Chief Judge IML Jeffrey Tucker, Skeeter Wildman, Warren Cave, Mark McKee and Alden Spafford. I was happy to serve as the alternate judge (in the event of a tie) and learn that they had all done their homework. In spite of the gravity of this momentous occasion, humor wasn't in short supply.

It was a tough panel. They quizzed contestants on every subject imaginable (worth a possible 400 points). By the time the session was over we knew we had a "contest." The other categories: brief wear (200 points), leather image and a random question (200 points) and formal leather and 90-second speech (200 points), made for a possible 1000 points to win. The audience reaction to each

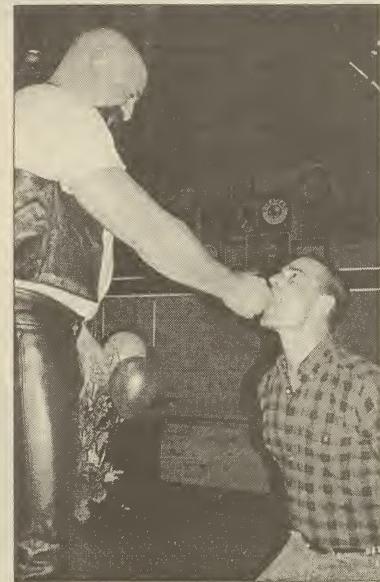


Photo: Mr. Marcus

Jayne Black receives "communion" (the S.F. Eagle Anniversary pin) from Assistant Manager Nick Varetakis last Tuesday, April 18. It was the S.F. Eagle's 14th Annual Pin Night.



Photo: Mr. Marcus

Mr. August on the 1996 Bare Chest Calendar, John Pony Bleyle, left, poses with his runner-up Jim "Pig Boy" Hord, last Thursday night at the S.F. Eagle.

contestant was overwhelming.

Since Vern Stewart was unable to be there, the annual Peter Austin Achievement Award was left to me to present. Ironically, during the pre-judging, each contestant was asked which SF leatherman they thought had done the most with a leather title. Their almost unanimous response in naming that person turned out to be the winner of that honor: Leather Daddy Philip Turner. His acceptance speech, as always, was dedicated to the many, many people, businesses and entertainers who helped him raise the thousands of dollars for worthy charities. Great choice!

Patrick Batt of Mercury Mail Order (aka the Dildo Mines) was the tally master, chosen because of his experience as the producer of the first two IML contests. The Mr. SF Leather Contest Committee chose this year to utilize straight scoring instead of the often controversial Olympic Scoring System.

When the moment of truth arrived, Ms. SF Leather B.J. Ruthstrom joined her male counterpart in the leather hierarchy to help medallionize the winner and two runner-ups. In his farewell speech, Mr. SF Leather '94 Mike Lias was startlingly candid in assessing his year with the title. He dedicated his year to his late lover, Rob Marvin, and commanded various people for their help. It was a humorous, gracious and poignant speech that was drawn from the depths of his entire being. Everyone knew he meant every word and they showed their appreciation by according him a standing ovation.

Mike Lias read the names of the winners: second runner-up, Mr. Edge Leather Tommy Reaves. Bedlam! First runner-up: Independent contestant Andy Anderson. More bedlam. And Mr. Leather of San Francisco '95 is also Mr. San Francisco Eagle Leather - Wolf Mirasol.

The dozen or more cameras in front of the stage erupted in a flash frenzy as the medallion was placed around the neck of the man who will represent us in Chicago in just 33 days. Already, a brainstorming session has been planned for next Saturday to guide our winner, not on how to behave in Chicago, but to get ideas/input for a successful year with his title. Judging from the responses thus far, Wolf Mirasol will do just fine.

Saturday's contest was the last of many I've attended/judged so far this year. The upcoming contest in Chicago will be my 16th effort to help the other judges pick IML '95. And in case you're wondering, the IML judges this year are: Lauger Valentine (Washington, D.C.), Patrick McCarty (New Orleans), Philip Deitch (St. Louis), Aubrey H. Sparks (Seattle), IML Jeffrey Tucker, and Chicagoan Head Judge Thom Dombkowski. Have

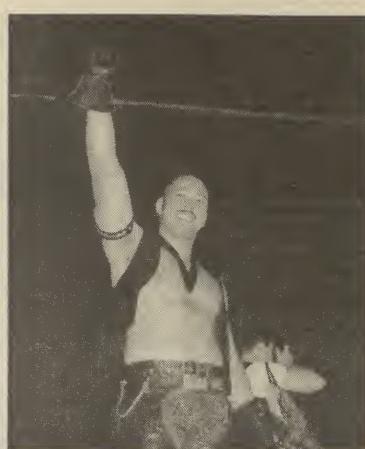


Photo: Mr. Marcus

Mr. San Francisco Leather '95 Wolf Mirasol flashes a victory sign after the contest last Saturday, April 22, at the Russian Center. He'll compete for the Int'l Mr. Leather title in Chicago next month.

you got your tickets yet?

Earlier in the week, the SF Eagle opted for only two days of their 14th Anniversary celebration. In case you didn't make it, the 14th year pin is faultless gray and gold. The mob scene was no less intense than last year on pin night, Tuesday. On Wednesday, the lavish buffet dinner was served up and the mad rush for the T-shirts began. It didn't take long to pass them out and one of the tiniest guys I know managed to score an X-large. Nick can be so vicious sometimes.

On Thursday, the Mr. August 1996 bare chest spot was up for grabs as judges Richard Faust, Steve Gaynes and the delightful Eric Weinman pooled their interview resources to choose from five aspirants. Mucho fun, mucho questions, mucho lies and mucho applause from the audience. After all the shenanigans, the spot will go to 48-year-old John Pony Bleyle, who turns 49 this year and 50 on next year's calendar.

The runner-up was 26-year-old Jim "Pig Boy" Hord, a Castro area bartender. Much hooting, hollering and havoc followed this announcement. Some of us wonder how he got the lovely nickname.

Lots of out-of-towners were in town to enjoy our fabulous weather last weekend. Mr. Perfect Hair, Frank Nowicki, arrived and was on his best behavior - after all, his lover Jim McGlade (owner of the Leather Rack store in D.C.) was with Vicky and nobody, absolutely *nobody* messes with big Jim! Carmen Rodriguez couldn't make it so the witch quartet was not into their cooey cuteness this weekend.

The only incident that marred an otherwise wonderful weekend was a straight female vocalist who has seen better days; she was paid (limousine furnished too) to come here to entertain but was such a mess that the plug was pulled on her "downer" act. When her so-called supporters tried to finish her act onstage at the Eagle on Saturday night, the plug was pulled again. It was really sad. "No more divas in leather contests" is the word from producers from D.C., New York, LA, Portland and other major cities.

The other tiresome refrain, "the contest is fixed this year like it was last year" was played again and again but nobody was listening. And this from someone who was on the committee and knows better! These are grown up adults who vehemently trumpet their leather pride. Puuhleeeeeeze. The only thing they don't trumpet is that they're "Unclear on the concept." Bummer! ▼

Events in Leather

(Unless otherwise indicated, all phone numbers listed below are in the 415 area code.)

Thursday, April 27

Paintings of the late Glen Zehrbaugh ("Snowflake") go up on the walls tonight as the some-pieces-for-sale show extends through May 8 at the Lone Star Saloon. Don't miss the stunning work of one of SOMA's most beloved personalities.

Weekend, April 28-30

The Regiment of the Black & Tans, LA's premier uniform club, hosts its annual "Maneuvers" weekend with functions Friday night through Sunday. Check with any bartender at Shawn Farnsworth's Faultline Bar for details.

The Constantines are having an overnight/500 run Saturday and Sunday, but their corresponding secretary must have forgotten to send a press release. Oh, well...

Saturday, April 29

If you're into aqua sports and happen to find yourself in San Diego, check out the new Water Boys Club at their beverage bust at the San Diego Eagle tonight, 2000-2300. Tell them I sent you and you'll be drenched with an enthusiastic welcome. Drink lots of liquids - you'll be a star!

Communications Access Network is having a beverage bust at the Eagle, 2000-2300, for \$6. These are the people who maintain a sign language bureau and can furnish you with ASL signers for your various functions.

Sunday, April 30

The "Rites of Spring" beverage bust (\$6) at the Lone Star Saloon that begins at 0600 and goes to noon will benefit the Rita Rockett Ward SB Sunday brunches at SF General Hospital.

"Last Sunday in April" annual beer bust at the SF Eagle by the Knights of Malta, 1500-1800, for \$8. Net proceeds go to AIDS charities. ▼

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PORN

Top Notch Boy Play Distinguishes 'One Man's Poison' Choosing the Best Evil

by Rod Cazzo

What am I to think when a porn video begins with a Mae West quote about confronting two evils? Is this going to be one of those failed film student art/porn flicks? An attempt to raise porn from its banal depths? Not so. *One Man's Poison*, though it is badly titled, uses some pathetic sequencing devices and has its tired moments, is porn worth renting.

Now, I think the director must have watched a Barbara Walters special the night before filming because each fuck scene begins with a "behind-the-camera" interview with the actors. ("Yeah, I'm doing okay. It's been hard though." Or, "Well, I like men with great butts.") The comments are trivial, pure drivel, or just incomprehensible. Did I feel like I knew these kind-hearted gentlemen after these charming interludes? No, I say let's get on with the fucking.

Luckily, the sequences are rather short, and the fucking is top notch. In the first scene, two guys eye each other in a back alley. Doug Forbes makes the first move by rubbing a condom across his crotch. (Gotta see if this works for me in the Castro while waiting for the bus.) Mike Lamas, the video's winner for best eyes, responds by giving Doug one of those great big sloppy kisses that conveys more than a little interest. You honestly think Mike is hot for Doug, on and off the set. Doug, on the other hand, uses his tongue like he's licking a cactus ice cream cone. Much body rubbing occurs, then suddenly both men are naked, except for socks.

With legs stretched wide and one foot on top of a fire hydrant, there's no question that Mike is the star of the scene. When he rubs his face in Doug's pits, it's with the kind of intensity that sets your imagination spinning. (Mike tied up at my feet. Mike wincing because my hand is pushing through his asshole. Mike's puppy eyes ... well, you get the picture. This kid is bottom potential.)

Perhaps potential is not the word. As Doug fucks him, Mike folds his body in half like a true gymnast. You know he does his stretching exercises every morning! The scene ends with cum dripping in between Mike's mounds of perfect abs.

Big stiff Joey

Scene two has the late Joey Stefano making a private exhibition after one of his strip shows. Joey, who unfortunately wears his hair long in this video, has an ass (well, asshole) to be reckoned with. Bent over on the floor, licking his hands and fingering his asshole, Joey humiliates himself like an expert. The fingering does get a little boring after a while and serves to remind us why bottoms shouldn't get to stage scenes all by themselves.

After a waiter delivers some dildos (Yes, I'll have the Jeff

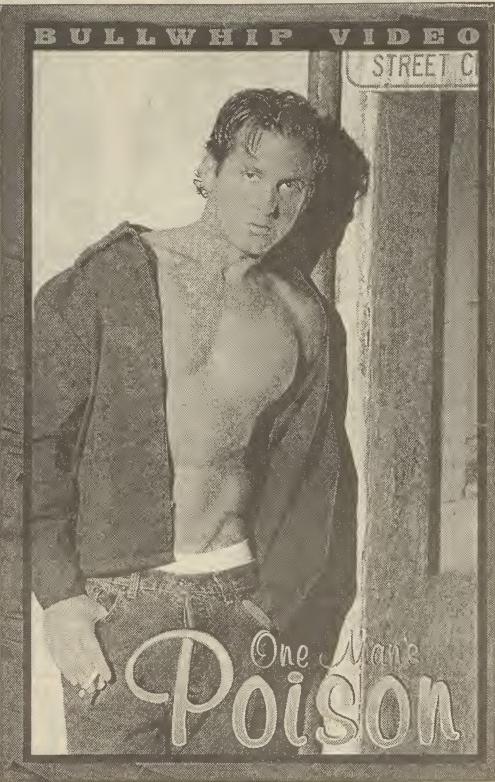


Photo: Abigail Harbeck

One Man's Poison: "Let's get on with the fucking."

Stryker Realistic tonight, but hold the sauce), the until-now-unseen voyeur steps forward and whips out his huge dick — and I mean *huge* dick. On his back and with his head hanging over the edge of the stage, Joey gets his face fucked with no little enthusiasm. After coming, the voyeur throws Joey a quarter and leaves. After all these years of keeping Joey Stefano in the heart of my libido, it wasn't pretty seeing Joey so humiliated. But then, that's probably because I didn't get to do the humiliating.

Elastic rectum

The final fuck is worth staying erect for, if just to get off on Brad Hunt. He's got the sexiest ears and jaw you've ever seen. And he's also got a perfect dick — not too large, but grossly oversized for his body. The result is a kind of obscenity that all cocks strive for.

The scene starts with Brad making a few cute jokes to the camera when lo and behold, a delivery man delivers a box with Max Holden in it. After he spits out some packing peanuts, a blow job ensues, though it's perfunctory at best. Then he rolls onto his back and really delivers the goods. Some men have assholes that can go all night; this guy has an asshole that would probably wear any top out. When Brad fucks him, it's justice that it's with the fierceness of a brawl inside the tiniest bar room around. Brad wins hands down. Max wears a kind of worried look on his face even while he's shouting, "Tear me up, fucker." To his credit, Brad just remains silent and keeps on pumping.

This video stands out among the dross; we're sure after you watch it, you will too. ▼

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SWEET LIPS

Gearing Up for the Closet Ball

A great fundraiser was held last Saturday at Kimo's by Craig (Earthmother) Roady. We raised over \$2,600 for The Godfather Fund, pigged out on some really great food and had fun with all the great prizes. This was a memorable event all around. A special "thank you" to everyone who helped out and to everyone who simply showed up.

Have you been to Old Rick's Gold Room lately? (Ole Kneepads Marcus remembers it, I'm sure.) Richard the manager has done a great job with the decor. Empire Style does suit you darling. The place looks simply fabulous. Of course, Maxine had a hand in the make-over.

Hello to Flossie of The Silverado Bar in Portland. Thanks a lot for those lovely beads, darling. You can ring my bell any time you want.

Hal Call's Circle J certainly has been showing some great films lately. And there are always interesting people in the audience, even after the films have ended.

Don't forget that you can get your tickets to the Closet Ball from David Webb at the Giraffe Video Lounge on Polk Street. This annual "coming out party," in which macho men will turn from succulent studs to "bodacious beauties" before our very eyes, happens Saturday, May 6 at Bimbo's 365 Club at 1025 Columbus Avenue. A select group of 11 male contestants will compete for the title of Closet Ball Queen. The winner is judged on how smoothly he can transform from masculine hunk to serene siren. An exhibition of good taste in male attire and high fashion female attire plays a big part in who grabs the tiara.

While the audience awaits the transformation, some of SF's finest entertainers will take to the stage: Gail Wilson, John Gullotto, the Bay Area Raw Rabs and the SF Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band. There are lots of tickets left. Tickets are \$20 and \$30 for cocktail table seating. For more information, call 864-0673.

People are always complaining that nothing ever happens in provincial Bagdad-by-the Bay. Well, here is evidence to the contrary. This is a very important homegrown San Francisco-style event that all of us queens should get out and support. Do your part! Pick up the phone and order some tickets now!

Word has it that Macho Dolly Dale will be one of the contestants. When that news got around town, someone I know called and asked me who was going to give him dictation lessons? (Perhaps Mr. Marcus could be called upon for this special task? He does enunciate things so very clearly.) I think it's worth the price of a ticket just to see Dale do his thing.

The Cinch Saloon will host a Mother's Day at the Races on Sunday, May 14 for only \$27. A bus departs from the Cinch at 11:30 a.m. - sharp! If interested, see David Kapp for tickets, soon.

Happy birthday to my good friend Ray McWade in Seattle. His birthday is on Sunday, May 30. ▼



Photo: The Lipper

Sweet Lips, left, and Greta Grass, a vision in stripes here, sipping strong drinks after one of their fabulous fun-filled afternoon soirees. Despite her butch appearance here, Greta's voice is actually a lot higher than you'd think. Oh, by the way Lips, whoever made that sweatshirt for you should learn how to spell, darling.

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Mystery Writer Jean Taylor

No Mystery to Good Writing

by K.T. Drasky

It was reading a really bad lesbian mystery that inspired Jean Taylor to write her own mystery novel. "I can do this better," she recalls saying to herself. "And, so I did – and it was fun." Thus the mystery behind the inspiration that led to Taylor's successful debut novel *We Know Where You Live*, recently published by Seal Press.

Watching Jean Taylor sip a latte and munch a bagel in a Castro Street coffee house, it's easy to see Taylor as her own character, San-Francisco-based, lesbian private investigator Maggie Garrett, who conducts a lot of her work in cafes. A full-time editor and proofreader at a Financial District law firm, Taylor admits Maggie's roots are autobiographical (the Iowa birthplace, the passion for endless cups of coffee, and even a stint as a "law firm drudge"), but that Maggie quickly took on a life of her own. Taylor laughs while describing how she was able to take "absolutely dreadful experiences and turn them into something entertaining."

Jean Taylor grew up devouring novels by Agatha Christie and P.D. James. She now names Barbara Wilson and Elizabeth Pinkus among her favorite writers. Taylor only began writing three years ago when she penned the first draft of *We Know Where You Live*. A strong network of friends who encour-



Jean Taylor

aged her to write, faithfully stuck by her to read drafts and catch holes in plotting – perhaps the most difficult aspect of building a suspenseful mystery. Upon completion, Taylor sold the book to Seal Press without

the help of an agent. After "surviving" what seemed like months of editing and rewriting, she began work on a second Maggie Garrett mystery, *The Last of Her Lies*, to be published next March by Seal Press.

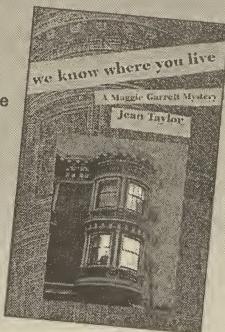
REVIEW

**We Know Where You Live
– A Maggie Garrett Mystery
by Jean Taylor; Seal Press, \$9.95.**

Jean Taylor's Maggie Garrett, a San Francisco private investigator, has her work cut out for her when the leadership of the Pride Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club hires her to find out who among their members might have a hand in the till.

From the minute Maggie agrees to take the case, someone out there in the cold summer fog begins dropping "hints" that she might want to put her energies elsewhere. The hints get bigger – and more dangerous – as the plot thickens, weaving through a series of gay bashings that might not exactly be what they seem and revealing a web of corruption that stretches from the Castro down to City Hall. Guessing which "gay" might or might not be the go-between, snappy urban queer dialogue, and a lot of coffee make this a gripping, fun read. ▼

—K.T. Drasky



With the gay and lesbian mystery writing genre expanding, Taylor and Maggie Garrett may have landed in the right place at the right time. But for Taylor, coincidence has nothing to do with it. It's all about good writing. Mystery readers, gay or straight, demand excellent plots and interesting characters, and if they don't get this from one writer there are plenty of others to read.

Taylor hopes that her own books will eventually develop a following among straight readers, to complement the lesbian and gay fans who've already discovered her. Although her Maggie Garrett mysteries feature a lesbian heroine whose friends are mostly lesbian and gay, Taylor explains that some of the main character's friends and colleagues are straight, "like in the real world." The villains and various suspects are also a mixed crowd.

The feedback that has surprised Taylor the most has come

from co-workers, who bought her book in a show of "support." Mostly heterosexual males who don't read mysteries, she doubted any of them would actually read it, let alone enjoy it. But it was their enthusiasm for her work that convinced Taylor that her writing had potential in both queer and mainstream markets.

Taylor hopes her big crossover breakthrough will come with the publication of her third mystery, her first non-Maggie Garrett story. She admits that she'd eventually like to make a killing – monetarily, that is – and "maybe ... just maybe" give up her day job. ▼

■ Jean Taylor will read from *We Know Where You Live* on Sunday, May 14 at A Different Light, 489 Castro St. in San Francisco at 7:30 p.m.; and on Thursday, June 1 at Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St. in San Francisco at 8 p.m.

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DEEP END

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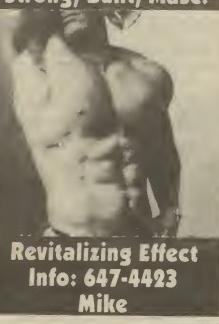
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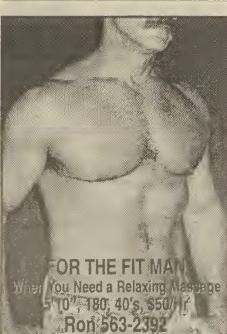
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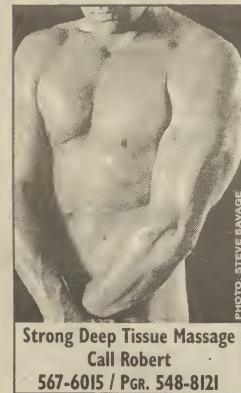
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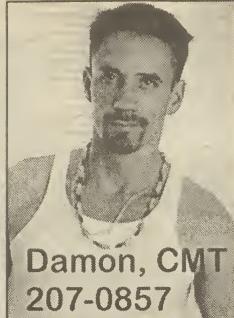
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A RELAXING MASSAGE
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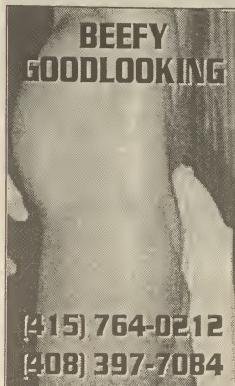
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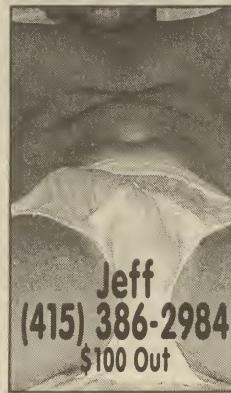
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6'2", 170, Shldr Length Hair,
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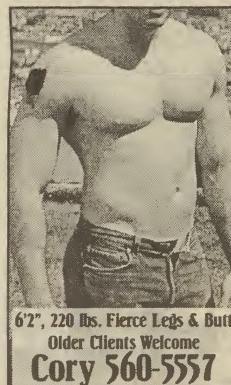
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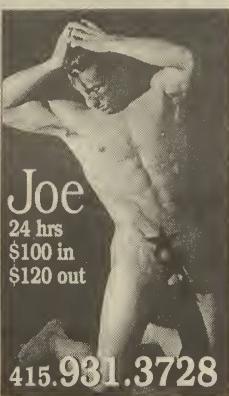
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Built, Friendly, Dominant!
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Bottom*Boy*Pgr: 698-0977

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Very Muscular, 6 Ft, 205 Lbs.
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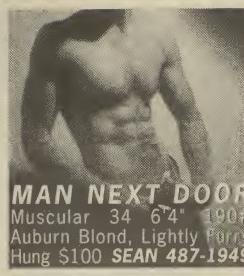
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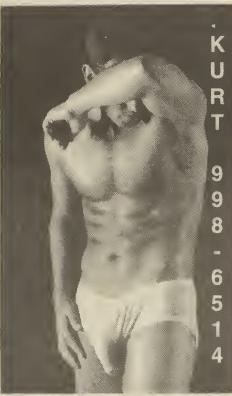


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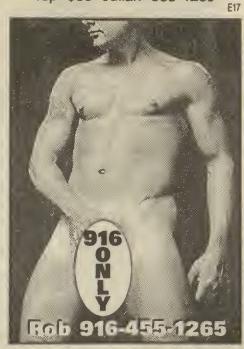
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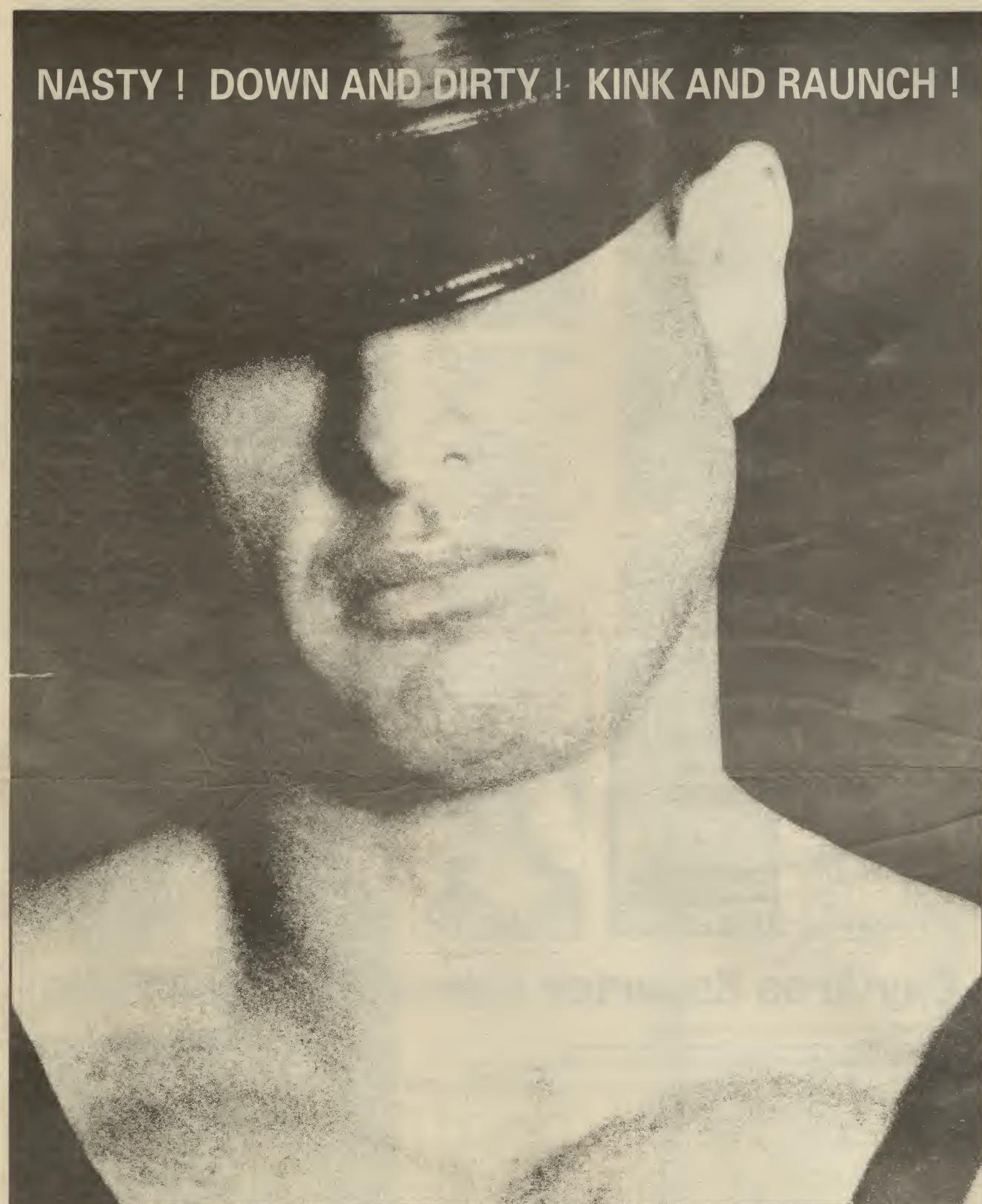
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